Desierto tosses tax credit scam probe to task force

STORY ON PAGE A2

DI LANG PANG
ERAP JOKES
ANG CELLPHONES

Phone pills, phone pols, phone perils

MORE and more people are finding innovative uses for mobile phones.

In Warsaw, a Polish Internet company has begun offering women a

PHONE/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

New basic curriculum begins in June—Roco

By Norman Bordadora

NO MATTER the uproar in the education sector caused by the introduction of a new basic curriculum, Education Secretary Raul Roco confirmed it would be implemented in the next schoolyear.

Elementary and high school students

NEW/A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, February 8, 2002 ★ 62 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 62 P15 website: www.inq7.net

US troops deployed but still no rules

PULIS
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EDWIN BACASMAS

PARADING the might of the police during the PNP's 11th anniversary rites on Thursday when President Macapagal reminds that "public trust must be the prime mover of achievement."

Yellow ribbons up for Burnhams from Rose Hill to Aritao

ROSE HILL, Kansas—Yellow ribbons, heavy from the melting snow, droop from two posts on the porch of Martin Burnham's parents' home.

A plaque emblazoned with praying hands, and inscribed with the words "Nothing is impossible," hangs above their door bell.

More than eight months have passed since Martin and his wife Gracia, both missionaries, were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines.

At the compound in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, of the nondenominational New Tribes Mission, to which the Burnhams belong, similar yellow ribbons are tied around trees.

"The ribbons are there to reinforce our prayers for their safe release," said the Burnhams' friends.

They said the ribbons would be untied only after the Burnhams had been released, and "we are expecting their release soon."

It has been months since the last let-

YELLOW/A18

By Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines may have taken shortcuts by allowing the deployment here of US troops without the terms of reference (TOR) governing the RP-US Balikatan 02-1, or even before approval of the document by both sides, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan expressed agreement with this view at the resumption of the Senate's joint inquiry on the controversial military exercise, adding that the Philippines was a victim of *fait accompli* because the Americans were already deployed even before the Supreme Court could resolve the legality of Balikatan 02-1.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes insisted that no shortcuts had been made, and that their actions and preparations were merely "faster than usual."

Malacañang at last made the TOR public, with President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson saying "it's a recognition of our sovereignty."

Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday distributed to reporters copies of the two-page document, which, among others, effectively placed American troops under the "authority" of Filipino military commanders.

Tiglao said the TOR had been approved at the level of Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, AFP chief of staff, and Admiral Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command.

He said Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. was scheduled to hold a teleconference with US State Secretary Colin Powell yesterday or today for a final review of the document.

Tiglao said that the President had designated Guingona to sign

US/A18

GMA orders PNP to launch new campaign vs kidnappers

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the police and military to mount a new anti-kidnapping campaign amid another rash of abductions in the country.

"We will meet the new round of kidnappings with more intense focus and counterforce," Ms Macapagal said at rites marking the 11th anniversary of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame.

On Wednesday, armed men seized South Korean trader Jae Keon-yoon and his Filipino partner, Carlos Belonio, at a border village in Sarangani province (not Sultan Kudarat as earlier reported).

Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, commander of the 6th Infantry Division based in Central Mindanao, said information provided by witnesses indicated the kidnappers were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The MILF denied the charge.

The kidnappings, which have tarnished the country's image as an investment haven and tourist destination, have been a stum-

GMAORDERS/A18

GMA extends Mendoza term

By TJ Burgonio and Dona Pazzibugan

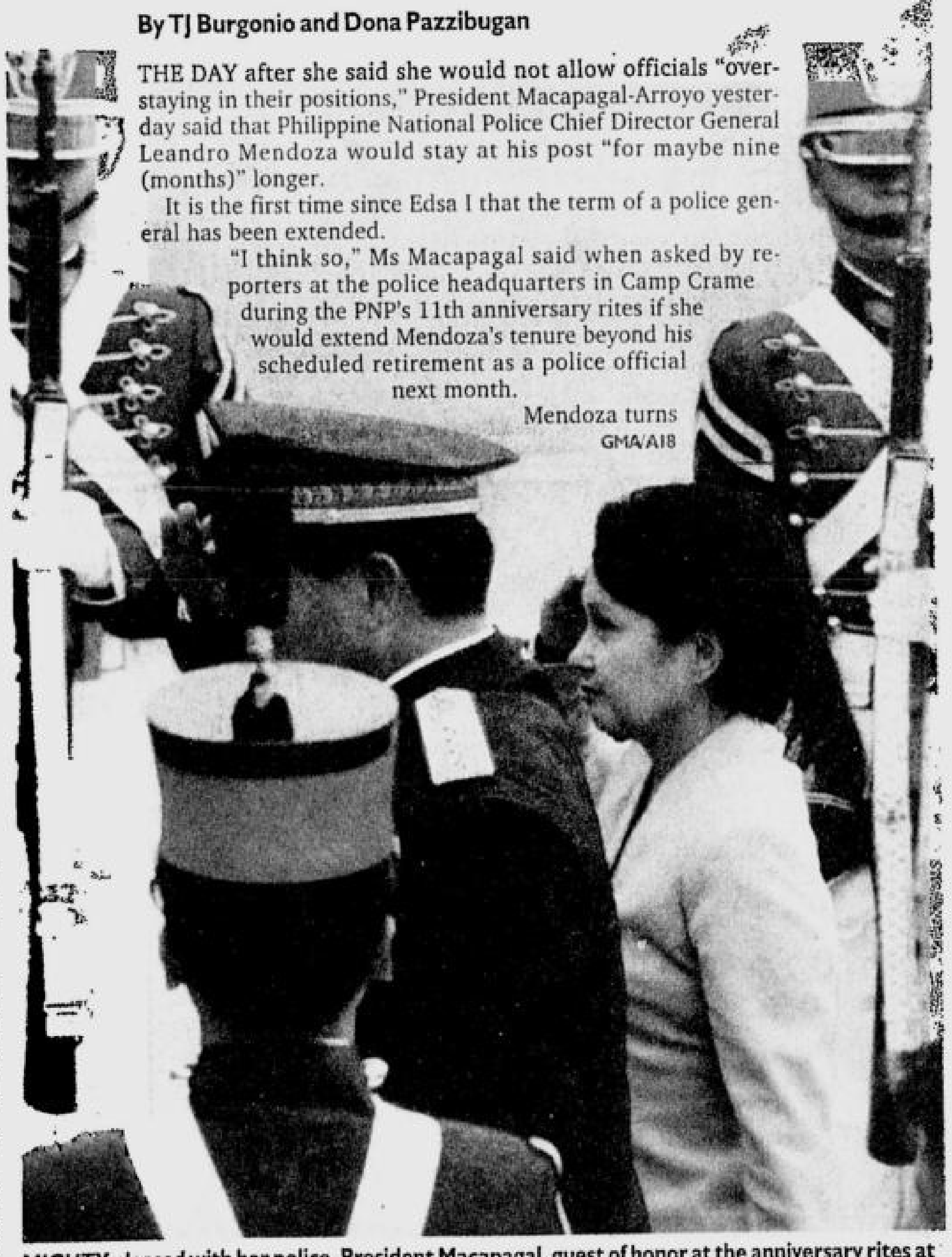
THE DAY after she said she would not allow officials "overstaying in their positions," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that Philippine National Police Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza would stay at his post "for maybe nine (months)" longer.

It is the first time since Edsa I that the term of a police general has been extended.

"I think so," Ms Macapagal said when asked by reporters at the police headquarters in Camp Crame during the PNP's 11th anniversary rites if she would extend Mendoza's tenure beyond his scheduled retirement as a police official next month.

Mendoza turns

GMA/A18



MIGHTY pleased with her police, President Macapagal, guest of honor at the anniversary rites at Camp Crame, troops the line with PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza. EDWIN BACASMAS

EDWIN BACASMAS

A WISH is dream of the heart for Chanes Victoriano as one of his 4 wishes comes true.

Ailing teener makes a wish; GMA plays genie and grants it

HOW little it takes to make the wishes of a cancer-stricken, 15 year-old boy come true.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, for one.

Not only did the President personally meet and talk with Chanes Victoriano, as he had so fervently wished, she also gave the boy's father a job in Malacañang.

Chanes, who suffers from cancer of the soft tissue, went to Malacañang in a wheel chair with parents Salvador and Cecilia. He also received a pair of rubber shoes, round-trip tickets on a luxury liner to his hometown in Cebu, a baseball cap and Malacañang souvenir items.

The teenager said he was very happy that he met the President and that he wished the Kythe Inc., the organization that helps him and his family, will flourish.

AILING/A16

Camacho back from US, denies reports he is quitting

By Clarissa S. Batino and Dona Pazzibugan

UNFAZED by his detractors, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday vowed to hang on to his job as he still enjoyed the full support and confidence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Weary from a long flight from the United States and from accusations that he had given favors to a nongovernment organization headed by his sister, Camacho said in a press conference that he had not tendered his resignation.

He said he believed in the fairness of the Commission on Appointments despite reports that legislators would suspend CA hearings on his confirmation until the controversy over the issuance of P35 billion in 10-year zero-coupon bonds was resolved.

Camacho said his track record, experience and performance as energy secretary and later as finance secretary the past 11 months would convince legislators of his fitness for public service.

"I believe I can be effective in this function," said the finance secretary, who enjoys the support of the business community and the confidence of foreign investors and creditors.

The Senate finance committee is investigating the auction of 10-year zero-coupon bonds that enabled the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) to realize P1.8 billion in gross profits without any capital.

Zero-coupon bonds, also called Peace bonds, are debt notes that were auctioned for the first time by the government on Oct. 16, 2001. An underwriter of CODE-NGO, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), cornered P35 billion worth of zero-coupon bonds but paid on P10.169 billion. After 10 years, the government will pay holders of the bonds P35 billion.

"The President has been very supportive of my position. I don't think the President has ever doubted the transparency of the transaction," the finance secretary said.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, "the President is 100 percent behind Camacho."

"She feels he is a crucial member of the Cabinet as he heads the economic team which has been making waves in

CAMACHO/A16

CODE-NGO bonds: Merit, not connections

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday said that non-government organizations get funding not because of their connections with funding agencies.

"I would like to state that NGOs get funded because of the merit of their proposals and track record of performance," Soliman said in a letter to the INQUIRER.

She was clarifying her statement at a press conference in Baguio on Wednesday that "NGOs get funded because of friendly connections and that donors give funds heavily influenced by friendly connections."

Solomon's clarification came amid allegations that the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), of which she was the founding chair, earned P1.4 billion in net profit from the sale of 10-year government bonds by puling strings in the administration.

The Code-NGO is now chaired by Socorro "Marissa" Camacho-Reyes, sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. The group also served as the secretariat of Kompil II, one of the groups that led last year's Edsa II revolt that toppled then President Joseph Estrada.

"I invite the critics to reflect on the matter that we relate with the donor community. We nurture these relationships; *inaalagaan natin sila* (we take care of them)," Soliman said in the letter.

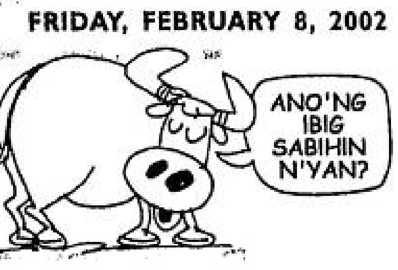
NGOs belonging to CODE-NGO defended the P35-billion in 10-year zero-coupon bonds cornered by the group.

Marietta Paragas, executive director of the Baguio-based Shontoug Foundation, said the fact that the auction of the bonds was "oversubscribed" proved that the project had not been rigged, and had netted the NGO community capital to finance social welfare projects.

"Over-subscription" refers to strong

CODE-NGO/A16

Second FRONT PAGE


ANO'NG IBIG SABIHIN N'YAN?

Funds will be wiped out in 13 years–SSS

THE STATE-RUN pension fund warned millions of members yesterday that their retirement money would be wiped out in 13 years unless premiums are raised to nearly twice their current level.

"If we do not do anything, our funds will be depleted by 2015," Social Security System spokesperson Joel Palacios told local radio.

He said the SSS, which manages the retirement fund of private-sector employees, was holding consultations with concerned sectors on raising the compulsory contributions over a number of years to 14 percent of a member's salary from 8.4 percent at present.

The present level is among the lowest in Asia, Palacios said.

SSS officials said payouts to pensioners were rising by between P5 billion and P6 billion annually, with employee contributions unable to keep pace.

Of the fund's 24 million members, about 800,000 are pensioners and the latter number is growing rapidly, they said.

"There is no decision yet. We are just saying at this time that this is the situation," Palacios said.

In any case, any increase would have to be approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo, he added. ***AFP***

Desierto tosses tax probe to task force

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has given Task Force 156 blanket authority to pin down the private firms and executives of Petron and Pilipinas Shell that benefited from the allegedly illegal issuance of some P2.5 billion in tax credit certificates.

In a letter dated Feb. 6, Desierto told Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho that he had authorized Task Force 156 to fully investigate the Chingkoe Group of Companies. Fact-finding and evidence-gathering on the cases involving the Chingkoe group, Desierto said, "shall now be the exclusive responsibility of Task Force 156."

Desierto explained he issued the order because Ombudsman probers "are too tied up with the cases of ex-President Joseph Estrada and other matters being investigated" by the office.

He added, "The Office of the Ombudsman will concentrate on the quasi-judicial process of preliminary investigation once we receive the comprehensive report and complaints, together with the evidence, from Task Force 156."

Task Force 156 is a presidential non-judicial team composed of representatives of the finance and justice departments formed to gather facts regarding the so-called tax credit scam.

Desierto, however, clarified that the special authority given the panel would cover only the 11 Chingkoe cases which the task force had been examining and where it promised to submit its findings to the Ombudsman's Office as early as December last year.

Special privilege

Desierto told Camacho he issued the special privilege to the task force because of the "imperative necessity" of an early completion of fact-finding efforts.

The Chingkoe firms allegedly obtained half of the illegally issued tax credit certificates (TCCs) amounting to P5.3 billion.

Earlier, Task Force 156 agreed to respect the position of the Ombudsman's Office that only one plunder case can be filed in connection with the Chingkoe cases.

This was contrary to the claim of Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno that the task force wanted to file 12 separate plunder cases against the Chingkoes and officials of Shell and Petron.

Bungled probe

Moreno, in a privilege speech on Jan. 23, accused Desierto of bungling the government's prosecution of the tax credit scam.

So far, the task force had filed one case against the Chingkoes involving Diamond Knitting. The case is now undergoing preliminary investigation.

The Ombudsman's Office had already subpoenaed 15 respondents in the scam, including the Chingkoes and the oil firms' officials.

Since 1999, the Ombudsman's Office had already filed 175 cases with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the scam.

Of the number, 62 cases against Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena and Executive Director Uldarico Andutan Jr. and executives of Petron and Shell were dismissed in August 2001.

However, the Sandiganbayan reversed its ruling on Tuesday and revived the 62 cases.

Desierto said that with the revival of the cases, a second impeachment complaint against him—which deals with the alleged bungling of the tax scam probe—now has no factual or legal basis.

Signatory

At the Leyte Rep. Ted Failon yesterday said he had endorsed the second impeachment complaint against Desierto, the first to admit having signed an endorsement being passed around by a group of lawmakers wanting to keep alive the impeachment bid against the Ombudsman.

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III also said he and some fellow members of the Liberal Party "in all probability" would endorse the second impeachment complaint, saying there was a need to get to the bottom of the tax credit scam.

Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri, who is leading the bid to endorse the second complaint against Desierto to the Senate ahead of the first complaint, said yesterday that his group had already been able to gather the signatures of about 40 legislators.

Zubiri's group needs 73 signatures representing one-third of the members of the House to endorse the second impeachment complaint against Desierto before it could be transmitted to the Senate ahead of the first impeachment complaint.

On Wednesday, newly installed Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva of Cibac party list group said he was willing to endorse the second impeachment complaint against Desierto.

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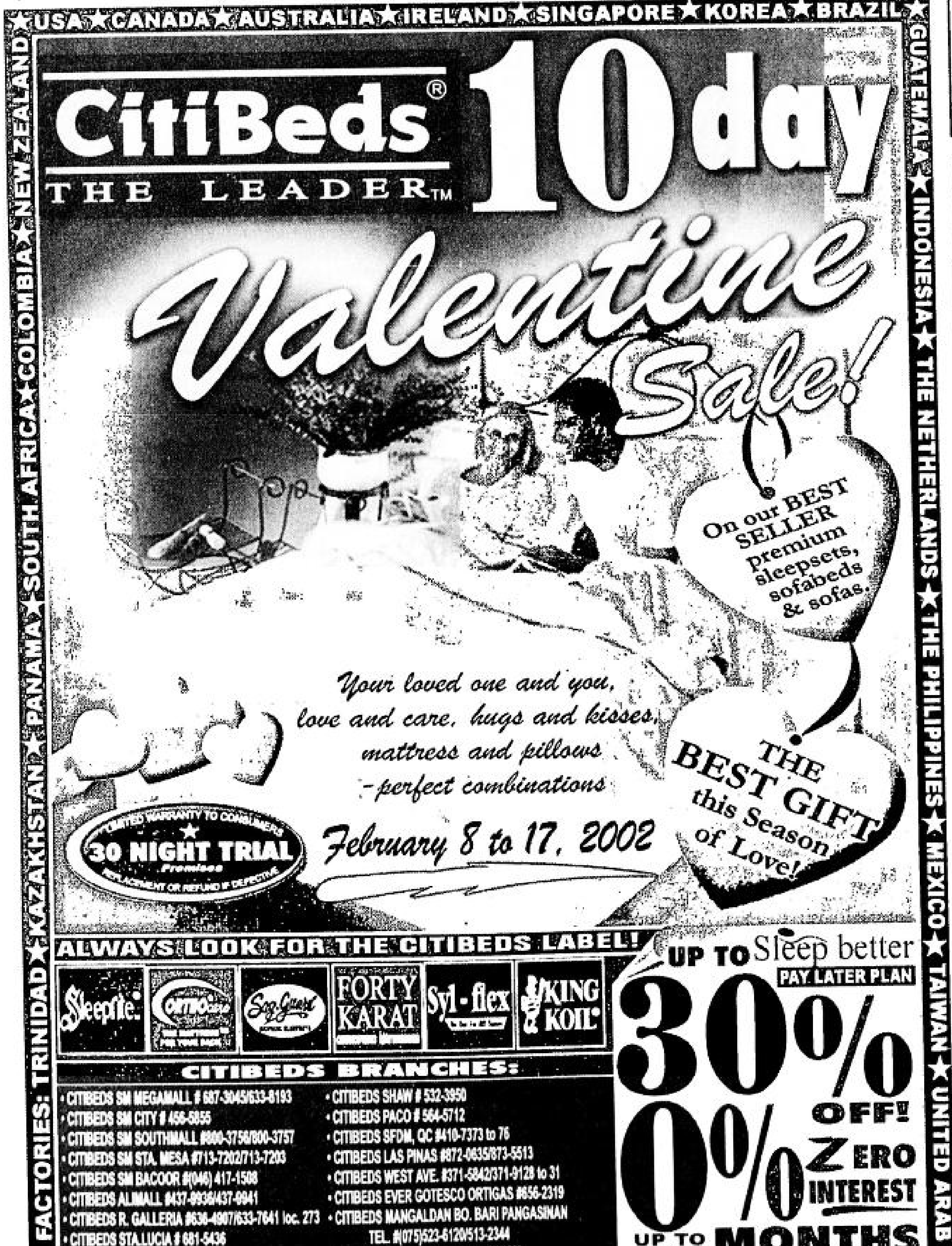
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Misuari appeals SC ruling on trial venue

By Michael Lim Ubac

DETAINED Moro leader Nur Misuari yesterday asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision transferring his trial to Laguna, saying he should be tried in an area not hostile to Muslims.

In a motion, Misuari said based on the historical roots of the Mindanao problem, there "is a pronounced anti-Muslim sentiment in the Christian areas of our country, including Laguna."

He said it would be grossly unfair to him to be subjected to a criminal trial for the capital offense of rebellion "in a hostile environment that negates and renders illusory the constitutional guarantee of a 'speedy, impartial and public trial."

He then asked the Supreme Court to set aside its earlier ruling and order that the trial be held in his own turf, Jolo, Sulu.

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has offered his city as the venue for Misuari's trial and one of his own houses as the Moro leader's detention house.

Macapanton Abbas, one of Misuari's lawyers, said the Davao mayor made the offer to him.

Duterte's offer

The gesture, according to Abbas, was as manifestation that the issue of security is not really a problem if Misuari is tried in Mindanao.

"I will offer Davao City as venue for his trial. And, if they want, I can offer one of my houses as Misuari's detention area," Abbas quoted Duterte as saying.

Misuari also asked the tribunal to issue a clarificatory resolution so as not to preempt the "factual issue of whether the accused and many others allegedly attacked the 104th Army brigade headquarters in Jolo."

He claimed that the high court based its ruling on an "unsubstantiated claim" of the Office of Solicitor General that there were 300 to 400 heavily armed men who are loyal to Misuari that were roaming freely in Sulu.

He said the OSG claim was treated as "gospel truth" by the court instead of seeking the views of the Jolo residents on the real situation in the area.

Impartial trial

On Jan. 22, the tribunal adopted the recommendation of the court's Office of the Court Administrator to grant the request of the Department of Justice to transfer the venue of Misuari's trial and seven of his men from Jolo to Branch 3 of the Calamba Regional Trial Court.

The court directed that the trial and hearing "be conducted in the regular courtroom of said branch until such time as a temporary courtroom is provided within the premises of Fort Sto. Domingo. Sta. Rosa, Laguna."

Misuari claimed that a criminal action should normally be instituted and tried in the court that has jurisdiction over the place where the offense was committed.

"However, this court has transferred venues of cases when the interest of justice requires. To conduct trial in a place where witnesses will not safely be at liberty to reveal their knowledge will make a mockery of the judicial proceeding," the court said.

In his 26-page motion, Misuari, through his lawyer Arthur Lim, claimed that the right of the accused to an impartial trial was superior and more imperative than security consideration.

House starts onsite probe of Jolo carnage

DAVAO CITY—The House of Representatives started its investigation on the Jolo mayhem that claimed more than 20 lives on Jan. 15.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House committee on national defense, said the committee has invited witnesses who could shed light why the peaceful rally, which called for the release of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari, turned bloody.

At least 23 persons, including 9 soldiers died after Marine troopers clashed with members of the PNP's Special Mobile Group during the rally.

"We are gathering all evidence to determine people who were responsible," Pichay said.

Last week, members of the committee visited Jolo for an inspection.

On Monday, Jolo Rep. Hussin Amin delivered a privileged speech lauding Pichay and the committee for conducting the on-site investigation of the incident in Jolo itself.

He said the visit of committee members had helped defuse the tension in Jolo.

"The immediate action and attention provided by members of the House was extremely helpful in defusing the tension that has settled over Jolo. It showed and proved to my people that the government, this House, is not deaf to their cries for help and calls for assistance," Amin said.

"Tension has already been eased," Pichay said of the situation in Jolo. ***Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Legal aid for Pinoy

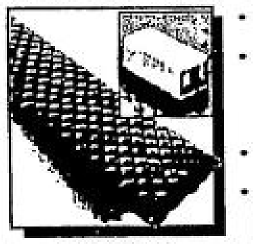
VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. has directed the Philippine Embassy at Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to extend all possible assistance to a Filipino overseas worker now languishing in jail for taking drugs prescribed by his doctor in the Philippines.

He authorized the remittance of $2,500 to engage the services of a lawyer to file an appeal before the Dubai Appellate Court.

On Jan. 13, Antonio Sanmillan was convicted for using codeine, a restricted drug there, and sentenced to four years imprisonment and deportation.

According to his mother Evelyn Sanmillan, his son had been undergoing medication for his lung disease and the drugs he had been taking were medically prescribed by a medical clinic in the Philippines.

BEDRIDDEN WITH BEDSORES?



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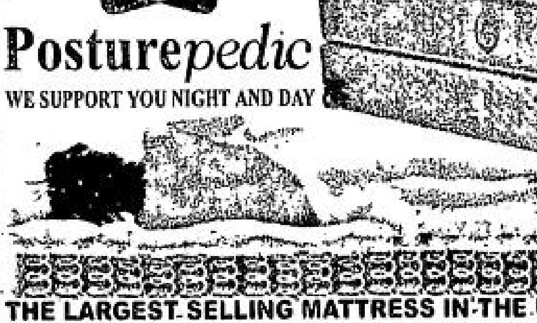

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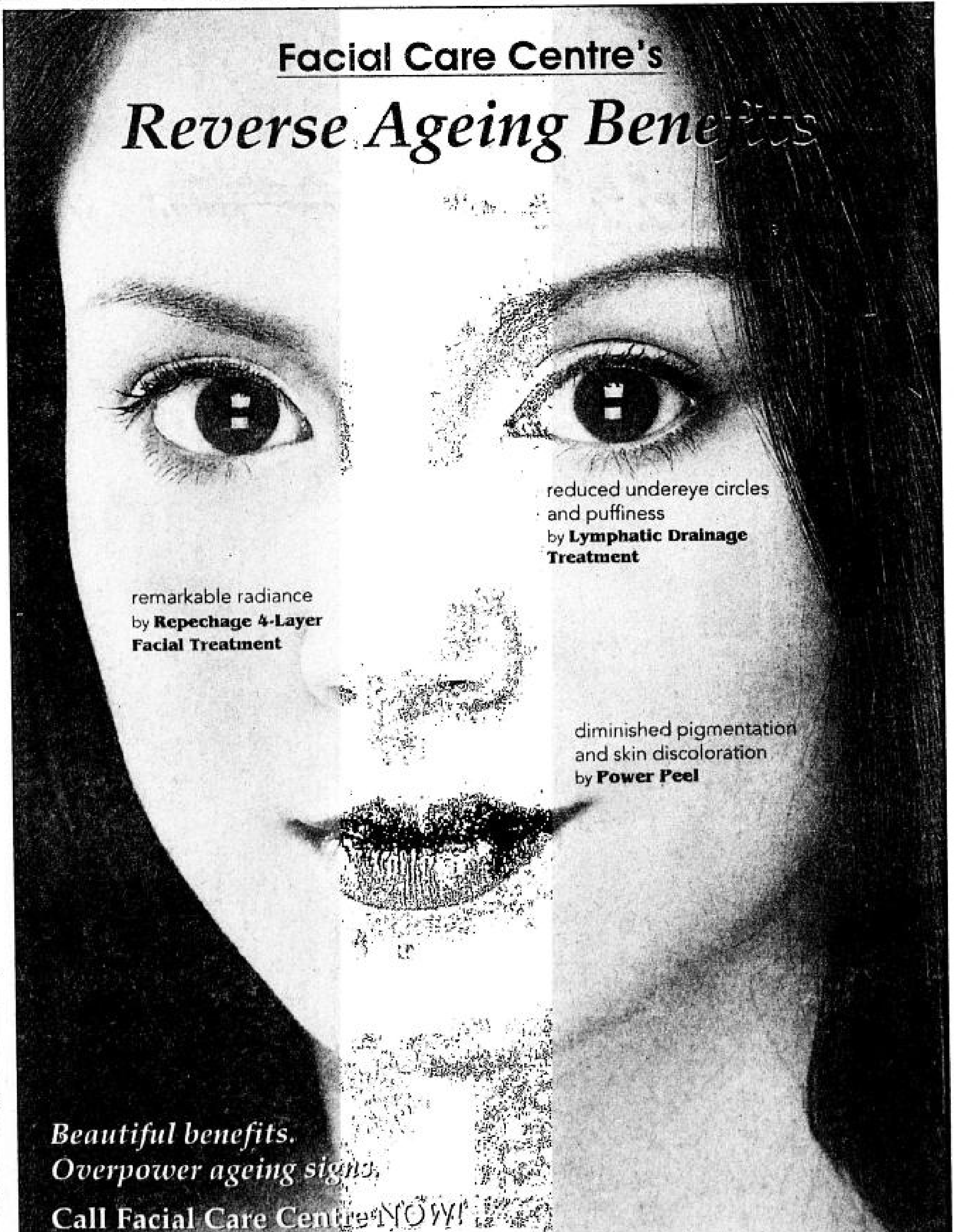

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New airport terminal to be opened by December

By Norman Bordadora

BALIKBAYAN and foreign tourists planning on visiting the Philippines next Christmas will find a spanking new and spacious airport terminal in Pasay City.

Edgardo Manda, the international airport general manager, announced this week that the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is already 70 percent complete and would be operational by December.

The huge terminal, which is to serve millions of passengers and ease traffic in the Naia's two terminals, is expected to be inaugurated either on Nov. 25 or Nov. 26—just in time for the 70th birth anniversary of the slain hero, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., after whom the airport is named, on Nov. 28.

Anticipating the operational problems of the airport's November opening, the Manila International Airport Administration has appointed Assistant General Manager Jun Montalvo to head the Naia-3 regulatory office.

With the scheduled opening of the huge terminal in December, the MIAA has also appointed an assistant general manager for security and emergency concerns.

Manda announced the appointment of retired Air Force Gen. Miguel Hinlo as the new security officer of the airport system.

Hinlo is a former chief of the 100th Training Wing of the Philippine Air Force and a former chief of the PAF's Aviation Security Command.

Naia secured vs mayor's men

AIRPORT police and security guards have been tasked to protect the premises of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from intruders, should the Parañaque government make good its threat to close down the facility and auction off its vast real estate.

General Manager Edgardo Manda of the Manila International Airport Authority said the MIAA, the PNP Aviation Security Group and the airport's security force are duty-bound by law to ensure the continued operation of the airport and protect it from any outside threat.

The airport is one of the heavily secured areas in the country.

The Parañaque local government has announced that it would put the Naia on the auction block today for unpaid land taxes worth P650 million since 1962.

The auction, which will include nine other pieces of property, is part of the local government's efforts to raise funds for several infrastructure projects, according to Patricio Asoy, Parañaque's assistant for legal affairs. The city government stands to earn about P1 billion.

Manda had claimed that government-owned and -controlled corporations such as the Naia should be exempt from paying land taxes to local governments.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

February 8, 2002
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Sir 47:2-11**
Gospel:	**Mk 6:14-29**

King Herod also heard about Jesus because his name had become well-known. Some people said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others thought, "He is Elijah," and others, "He is a prophet like the prophets of times past." When Herod was told of this, he thought: "I had John beheaded, yet he has risen from the dead!"

For this is what had happened. Herod had ordered John to be arrested and had him bound and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. Herod had married her and John had told him, "It is not right for you to live with your brother's wife." So Herodias held a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she could not because Herod respected John. He knew John to be an upright and holy man and kept him safe. And he liked listening to him, although he became very disturbed whenever he heard him.

Herodias had her chance on Herod's birthday, when he gave a dinner for all the senior government officials, military chiefs and the leaders of Galilee. On that occasion the daughter of Herodias came in and danced; and she delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want and I will give it to you." And he went so far as to say with many oaths, "I will give you anything you ask, even half my kingdom." She went out to consult her mother, "What shall I ask for?" The mother replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried to the king and made her request: "I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist, here and now, on a dish."

The king was very displeased, but he would not refuse in front of his guests because of his oaths. So he sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded John in prison; then he brought the head on a dish and gave it to the girl. And the girl gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard of this, they came and took his body and buried it.

Commentary

Life is unfair. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, "the greatest man born of a woman," the one who showed us Jesus, ended as an entertainment number during a birthday party. King Herod, a weak man, and Herodias, a wicked woman, ordered the beheading of this great prophet. To announce and to denounce, aspects of the mission of bringing the Kingdom, have created martyrs, champions of justice and truth. Fr. John Kaiser, who worked in Kenya for 36 years was killed today, as I write this commentary. The body of Kaiser, 67, a vocal critic of Kenya's bad human rights record, was found along a highway 80 kilometers northwest of Nairobi. Human rights activists and opposition politicians carried banners saying, "Killers of Father Kaiser are assassins of truth and liberty." The fight for justice and truth must continue.

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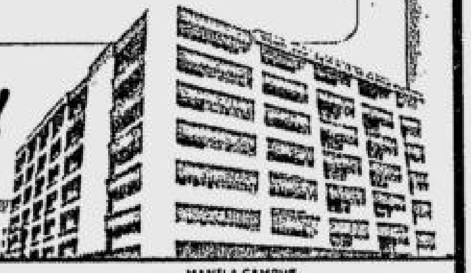
SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Parol evidence rule; exceptions—The parol evidence rule forbids any addition to or contradiction of the terms of a written instrument by testimony or other evidence purporting to show that, at or before the execution of the parties' written agreement, other or different terms were agreed upon by the parties, varying the purport of the written contract. When an agreement has been reduced to writing, the parties cannot be permitted to adduce evidence to prove alleged practices, which to all purposes would alter the terms of the written agreement. Whatever is not found in the writing is understood to have been waived and abandoned. The rule is in fact founded on "long experience that written evidence is so much more certain and accurate than that which rests in fleeting memory only, that it would be unsafe, when parties have expressed the terms of their contract in writing, to admit weaker evidence to control and vary the stronger and to show that the parties intended a different contract from that expressed in the writing signed by them. The rule is not without exceptions, however, as it is likewise provided that a party to an action may present evidence to modify, explain or add to the terms of the written agreement if he puts in issue in his pleadings: (a) an intrinsic ambiguity, mistake or imperfection in the written agreement; (b) the failure of the written agreement to express the true intent and agreement of the parties thereto; (c) the validity of the written agreement; or (d) the existence of other terms agreed to by the parties or their successors in interest after the execution of the written agreement. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Roble v. Arbasa, G.R. No. 130707, July 31, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera



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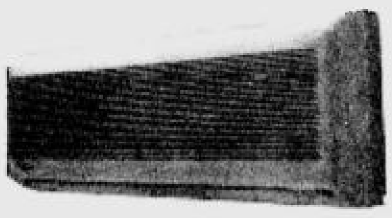
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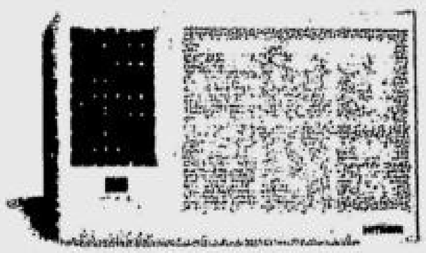
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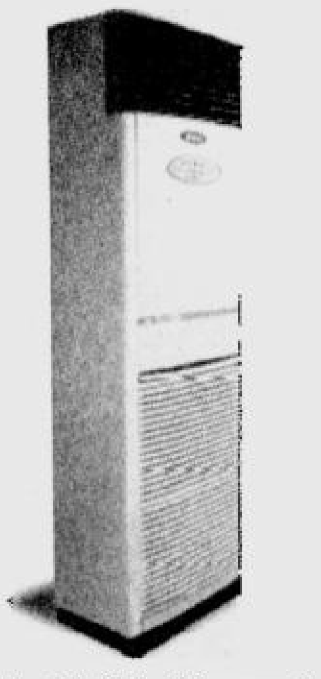
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Erap in the dock for 2 more cases

By Volt Contreras

JUST when his lawyers are opposing more frequent hearings, Joseph Estrada will be arraigned Feb. 13 for two more criminal charges—illegal use of alias and a second case of perjury.

The special Sandiganbayan division yesterday required the deposed president to be in court at 9 a.m. on Wednesday for him to be formally charged in Criminal Cases 26565 and 26905, respectively.

Estrada, 64, stands as the lone accused in the two cases.

Filed in April last year, the "alias" case stemmed from his alleged use of the name "Jose Velarde" to represent himself in several transactions allegedly as a way of concealing ill-gotten wealth amassed during his presidency.

The alias case particularly cites his use of that alias in signing documents with Equitable PCIBank on Feb. 4, 2000.

The perjury case, filed in October 2001, accuses him of under-declaring his true net worth in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities for 1998, the year he became president.

The twin arraignments will be before the same special court handling his main case of economic plunder.

His other, much earlier case of perjury concerning his 1999 SAL has been elevated by state prosecutors to the Supreme Court. This was after the Sandiganbayan's First Division cited flaws in the information and barred them from presenting bank documents as evidence against Estrada.

The special court yesterday denied for lack of merit his lawyers' May 25, 2001 motion to quash the "alias" case.

Last Tuesday, the court also found probable cause to try Estrada on the second perjury case and issued another warrant for his arrest. The ex-president, though, had been in jail since April for the non-bailable case of plunder.

Meanwhile, the special court's spokesperson, Renato Bocar, said the court will "definitely" start holding thrice-a-week hearings starting next month "with or without the conformity" of the Estrada lawyers.

In the last plunder hearing on Wednesday, the ex-president's defense counsels warned that they might not be able to cope with more frequent hearings and be eventually forced to withdraw from the Estrada cases.

New surgery for Estrada

JOSEPH Estrada will undergo another cataract surgery this Sunday—this time on his right eye—at a private facility in Makati City.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday approved his Jan. 31 request to undergo treatment again at the Asian Eye Institute in the upscale Rockwell commercial center.

Estrada, 64, had a cataract removed from his left eye Dec. 16 last year, by a team of specialists led by Dr. Amadeo Veloso Jr.

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Fourteen-hour water interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Pasig due to large pipe projects

Manila Water announced there will be a 14-hour water service interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong City and Pasig City beginning 10:00 p.m., Saturday, February 9, 2002, up to 12:00 noon, Sunday, February 10. The San Juan Pumping and Pasig Pumping Stations will shut down its operation to allow for interconnection of the 1.7 meter-diameter Aqueduct Number 1 and work on the 1200 mm-diameter mainline along Julia Vargas. Valve and line meter installations will also be done in Mandaluyong City during the period.

The following areas will have no water during the period:

Quezon City: Bagong Lipunan, Camp Crame, Murphy, West Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Mariana, Martin De Porres, Kaunlaran, Immaculate Concepcion, St. Ignatius, White Plains, Ugong Norte, Blue Ridge A and B, Libis, Green Meadows, Valle Verde VI, Corinthian Garden, Corinthian Hills and Greenwich Subdivision.

San Juan: Horseshoe, Greenhills, Ortigas Center, Valencia, Pasadena, Barangay Onse, Little Baguio, Sta. Lucia, Kaunlaran, Kanluran, San Martin, Immaculate Concepcion, Pinagkaisahan, Soccoro, San Roque, Dioquino, Bayanihan, Villa Maria and Clara St.

Mandaluyong City: Ortigas Center, EDSA Central, Highway Hills, Buwayang Bato, Malamig, Mauway, Plainview, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Itaas, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Drive Wack-Wack, Pleasant Hills, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato Libis, Burol and Harapin ang Bukas.

Pasig: Valle Verde, San Antonio Village, Pioneer Center area and Barangay Kapitolyo.

Residents of the affected areas are advised to store enough water for their use prior to the schedule of the water interruption. For the latest update, please call our **Customer Call Center 1627.**

BERNARDO

Customs bureau as 'paragon of integrity' is new chief's dream

By Blanche S. Rivera

TO "TRANSFORM the Bureau of Customs into a paragon of integrity, transparency and efficiency" may sound like the impossible dream, but it is the biggest self-imposed goal of newly appointed Customs chief Antonio Bernardo.

Bernardo, who is currently an undersecretary of finance, urged the leadership and personnel of the allegedly graft-ridden agency to be vigilant and adhere to the basic principles of good governance.

He said it was his job to ensure that the President's promise in her state of the nation address to have a graft-free customs bureau that will be "showcase of good governance" will be realized.

"No amount of computerization or administrative measure can substitute for honesty and integrity," Bernardo said in his speech during the centennial celebration of the bureau in Manila Tuesday.

Bernardo, who will assume his new post on March 30, presented his challenges and expectations before a gathering of customs employees who had been supportive of outgoing Commissioner Titus Villanueva.

The incoming customs chief said that while the bureau had surpassed its target collection last year by P565 million despite the economic difficulty and political instability, it should not become complacent.

"You should not rest on your laurels though. Last year's collection performance could have been better," Bernardo said. "There is much more room for improvement."

Bernardo said the government was expecting P5.5 billion in additional revenues this year from forfeitable bonds, liquidation of import entries, public auction of forfeited cargoes, and penalties from erring brokers, banks and importers.

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Gloria draws flak for crackdown on 'ukay-ukay'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to crack down on the sale of used imported clothes has been criticized for being anti-poor and a "terrorist act" on vendors who are mostly Muslim traders.

Wilson Fortaleza, president of Sanlakas, said while Ms Macapagal believes that poverty breeds terrorism, "her crackdown order on *ukay-ukay* vendors is more than a terrorist act since she would deny these vendors a decent source of income."

"Gloria also failed to realize that many of those involved in *ukay-ukay* business are Muslims. We now wonder if it is because her crackdown on *ukay-ukay* has become a part of her anti-terrorism drive," Fortaleza said.

"Ukay-ukay" comes from the Cebuano word "*ukay*," which means to rummage.

Fortaleza said the President sees "these little things like the illegality of *ukay-ukay* but is blind at her own foolishness and puppetry in the issue of Balikatan and US intervention."

Victor Briz, president of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, shares the same view. He noted that the Macapagal administration was being nationalistic on "mere trivialities" such as the issue of imported used clothing "but never on significant questions" like the presence of US troops in Western Mindanao.

"If GMA is indeed a nationalist, why then did she not protest against US intervention? Why did she allow Philippine sovereignty to be treated like a rag by the imperialist US government?" Briz said.

Briz said the sudden show of "political will" of the President and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman was prompted by lobbyists in the local garments industry which have been continuously demanding for protection from unfair competition.

But Briz said the prohibition on the *ukay-ukay* trade will not solve nor alleviate the grievances of local industry because Ms Macapagal "remains a rabid advocate of globalization."

"The local garments industry is threatened with extinction by the zero-tariff regime, a commitment made by Ramos during the 1996 Apec and stubbornly pursued by the Arroyo administration," he said.

"Gloria Arroyo could only pick on a fight with the small fry and never against the big fishes," Briz said.

Fortaleza said militant groups were indignant that the President was alarmed with the flourishing *ukay-ukay* trade in Cebu and Baguio City but remained unfazed by the likely tragedy the Balikatan 02-1 would cause.

"Her double standard policy on *ukay-ukay* shows the true character of her administration. She's harsh on illegal vending of the poor but acts like a pimp in promoting US intervention and globalization," Fortaleza said.

State-owned firm warns of shipping monopoly

THE PRESIDENT of the state-owned petroleum shipping company is resisting efforts to close down the firm, saying it will create a monopoly in the delivery of critical oil products by the same group that is demanding its closure.

This was the warning aired yesterday by retired general Cesar F. Tapia, president of PNOC Shipping and Transport Corp. in response to the demand that the government shut down the profitable operation of the PSTC.

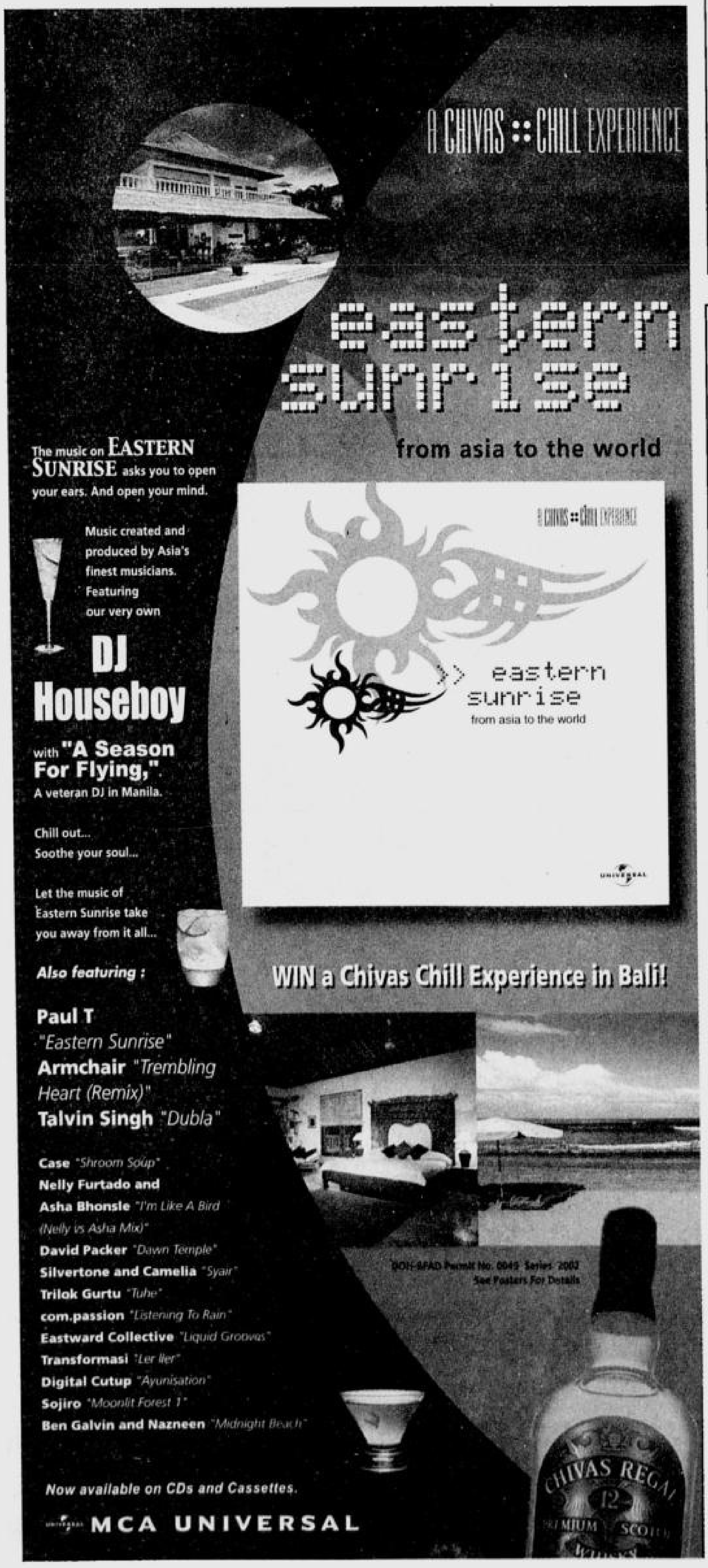
He said the demand of the Philippine Inter-island Shipping Association (Pisa) and Philippine Petroleum Transport and Shipping Association (Philpesta) for government to "wind down PSTC operations and sell its assets" was unreasonable, bereft of any legal basis and inimical to the national interest."

Tapia, in a press statement, said it will only create a monopoly in the transport of oil products by the private groups and render the industry vulnerable to the perils of peace and order problems in strife-torn provinces in Mindanao and remote island communities in the country.

He said the PSTC is a viable enterprise, generating income and employment, that ensures the delivery of oil products to strife-torn areas in Southern Philippines like Jolo and Basilan, dangerous coastal areas and remote island communities in the country.

If only for these reasons, closing down PSTC to heed self-serving and unreasonable demands of private shipping groups is out of the question, Tapia said.

In addition, Tapia said heeding the private group's demands would open concerned government officials to charges of corruption and dereliction of duty.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March 19, 2002 (Tuesday)
SURVIVING WORKPLACE CHANGE
Lirio O. Mapa, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will talk about how you can prepare yourself for changes. She will also tackle the paradigms and principles that can help you survive workplace changes.

March 20, 2002 (Wednesday)
LEADING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE
Mark Mackenzie, Managing Principal, S & G International Consulting, Inc., will focus on how you can lead change, not just from the senior management perspective, but from those in all levels of the organization. He will discuss how different types of change are identified, measured and managed by all employees.

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OPINION

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Surrender

EDITORIAL

JOSEPH Estrada had better start scouting around for new lawyers. His high-powered defense counsel are just about ready to throw in the towel. On Wednesday Jose Flaminiano told the Sandiganbayan's Special Division, which is trying the disgraced former president for plunder, perjury and other crimes, that "there will come a time that we will raise the white flag and withdraw."

What is bothering Estrada's lawyers this time? The Special Division created by the Supreme Court to handle all the cases against Estrada wants to speed up the trial. That was the special charge given to it: to "hear, try and decide with dispatch the plunder case and all related cases filed or which may hereafter be filed against Estrada, and those accused with him." The Supreme Court had to take this extraordinary step after the Third Division got bogged down by the retirement of one member, the illness of another and controversies among its members as well as interminable questions and objections raised by Estrada's counsel.

During Wednesday's hearing, Justice Minita Nazario, head of the Special Division, announced that thenceforth hearings would be held thrice weekly. Flaminiano objected immediately, saying their calendars were full. But Nazario pointed out earlier that they had come to an agreement to increase the frequency of the hearings. She also reminded them that the court had given them at least a month to adjust their schedules.

Flaminiano protested that because of their busy schedules they might not be able to attend some of the hearings if these are set thrice weekly. Or they might be too exhausted to put up a good defense for their client. "This is a capital offense," Flaminiano reminded the court. "Three times a week of trial will not give us a chance to effectively defend the accused."

Of course, given their caliber, Estrada's lawyers must be loaded with cases. But then there are seven of them, not counting their support staff. Surely they can juggle their schedules so that at least three or four of them can be present at any given hearing. Besides, this is supposed to be the "trial of the century," so why don't they give it the highest priority? Is Estrada not taking good care of them perhaps?

Given the gravity of the charges filed against him, Estrada is certainly entitled to the best defense. But it seems that even his hotshot lawyers have long given up hope of winning an acquittal if the trial ever comes to a conclusion. Thus instead of risking a judgment of guilty, they have adopted delay as a key strategy. While complaining about the inconveniences their client has to suffer in the presidential suite of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, they have turned on its head the common saying by making sure that justice is delayed and therefore denied—the aggrieved party who are the Filipino people. The idea obviously is to let the cases drag until a new administration kinder to Estrada comes to power.

Thus even before he could be arraigned in July, Estrada's lawyers had already filed a total of 68 motions both before the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court. Since then they have filed close to 50 other motions in a very obvious bid to delay, confuse and overwhelm both the prosecution and the court. At the rate the Third Division was going, it was estimated that the cases would have taken at least five years to resolve.

After Wednesday's confrontation, Estrada's lawyers have been served notice by the Special Division that it would no longer put up with their bellyaching and temporizing. Nazario, in particular, showed firmness and decisiveness in putting the defense lawyers in their place. She will need more of the same in the months ahead. If she and the members of the division stick to their guns, there is every reason to hope these historic cases will finally come to judgment.

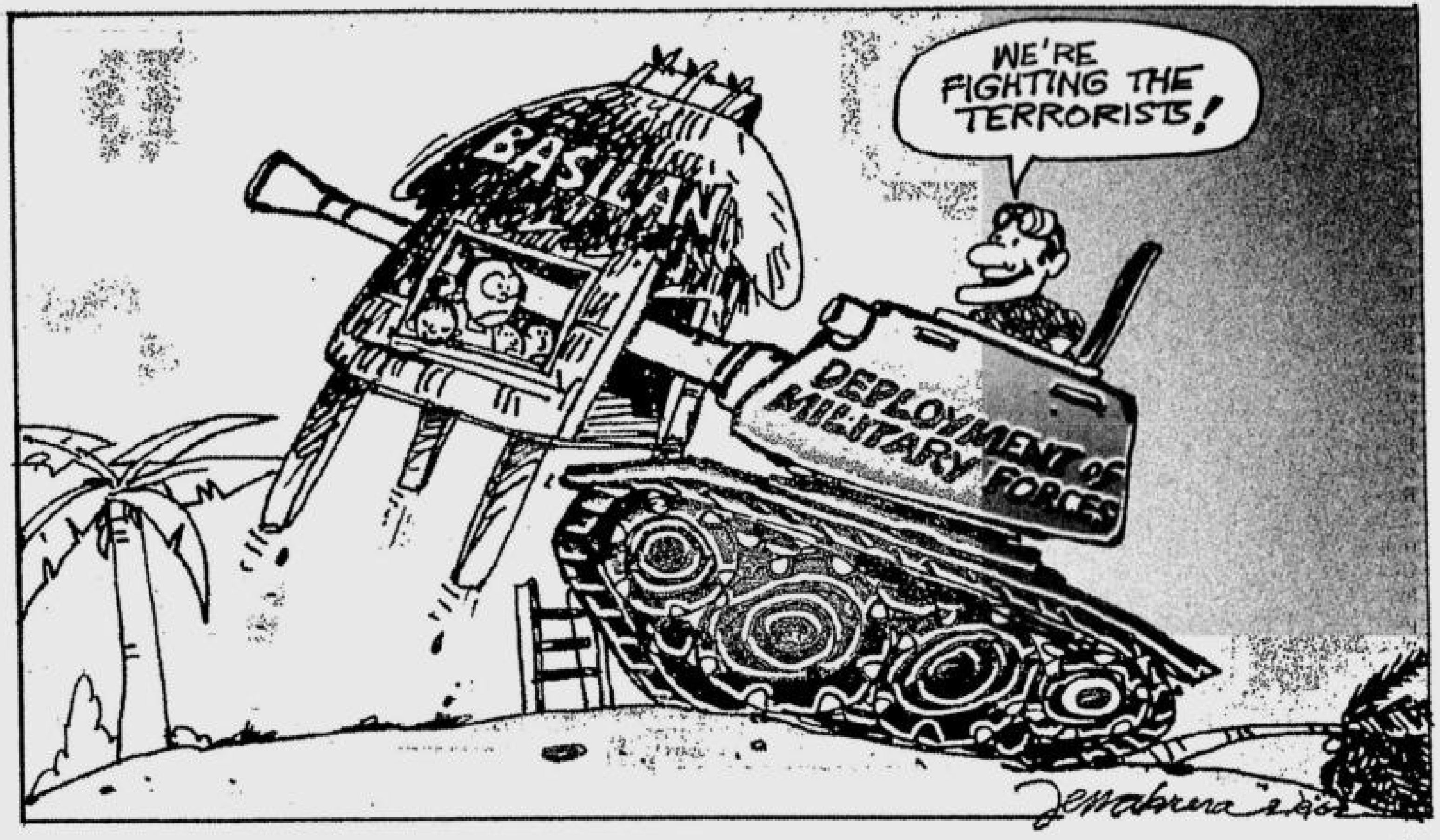
Good investment

FOREIGN COMMENT

EVERYONE knows what's at stake. If the international community lets Afghanistan down, just like it did after the Soviet retreat in 1989, it will soon sink even deeper into a black hole of criminality, new civil wars and even worse hardships for the impoverished population.

"Don't abandon us!" That was the pithy message from Afghanistan's prime minister, Hamid Karzai, to the international donors' conference (in Tokyo.) A massive Marshall Plan for Afghanistan would undoubtedly be a good investment. We can only hope that the world's donors keep their promises even after the media spotlights have been switched off.

Svenska Dagbladet (Stockholm, Sweden)



All about bonds and the Camacho siblings

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I HAD a long interview last Wednesday with Ms Socorro "Marissa" Camacho-Reyes, the woman in the middle of the controversial P35-billion PEACe bonds. She is the elder sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, which is why the bonds have become controversial. Critics say there is a conflict of interest and that the whole deal is a "scam."

Ms Reyes is the chair of Code-NGO, the consortium of the 12 biggest NGO networks which negotiated for the issuance of the zero coupon bonds, with the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. as its underwriter. Code-NGO made a profit of P1.4 billion in the deal which will go into a permanent PEACe Foundation endowment fund. It will earn P100 million in interest yearly from this fund. The interest earnings will be used for the poverty-alleviation programs of the member NGOs, such as loans for cooperatives, capital for poor individuals, etc.

But first, what are PEACe bonds? Well, it has nothing to do with "Peace" at all. It was just a name given to the bonds for better identification. And to give that name body, the bonds were named Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates.

The PEACe bonds are "zero bonds," so-called because the borrower does not pay annual interest on the borrowing. Instead, it pays the full face value of the bonds upon maturity. They are sold with very big discounts. It is similar to the 5-6 lending arrangement between wet market vendors and "Bombay" lenders. The vendor borrows P5 and pays the "Bombay" P6 a week later. The P1 difference is the lender's profit for lending his money.

In the case of the PEACe bonds, the government borrowed P10 billion. It won't pay anything until after 10 years (long after GMA is no longer President) but it will have to pay the face value of the bonds, which is P35 billion. The difference represents the principal plus the interests that the loan earned in 10 years. The government sold the zeroes at P29.054 for every P100 of face value.

The bonds were awarded at a yield-to-maturity rate of 12.75 percent. RCBC then bought the bonds from Code-NGO at 11 percent. In pesos, the difference between the purchase price and the selling price comes to a profit of around P1.8-billion for Code-NGO. It paid P400 million to the underwriter and its investment consultants. Thus, it had a net profit of P1.4 billion. RCBC will then sell the bonds to other investors at a smaller discount; the difference becomes its profit.

It is similar to the sale of Treasury bills. The banks buy huge chunks of T-bills at a certain interest and then sell smaller amounts to investors at a slightly lower rate of interest. The difference is the bank's profit. The difference may be only a few percentage points but since we are talking here of billions of pesos, the total earnings can amount to hundreds of millions of pesos.

Ms Reyes said Code-NGO's original goal was to raise only P1 billion, so they were a little surprised and elated by the P1.8 billion yield. She said she thought of the bond issue because the sources of funds abroad of the local NGOs were drying up.

On the most controversial aspect of the deal, she said it was initiated and hammered out during the term of then Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, long before her brother became finance secretary. When he assumed the finance portfolio, the deal was almost finished.

The conflict-of-interest problem did enter her mind, she said, and she broached to her group the idea of resigning as chair of Code-NGO to avoid the problem. Some in her group agreed that it was the right move, but the majority thought it was unnecessary as everything in the deal was transparent and on the level, anyway. She said they negotiated with various government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Treasury, Department of Finance, Monetary Board, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Commission on Audit. Toward the end, when Camacho was already finance secretary, they presented it to prominent businessmen and captains of industry and they were all bullish about it. Not one raised the possibility of a conflict of interest then.

Zero bonds, by the way, are nothing new. Floating of zero bonds is quite a popular way of raising money in other countries. What is new is that this is the first time an NGO has raised money though zero bonds.

Ms Reyes said she never discussed the mechanics of the bond issue with her brother. In the first place, before he was appointed to the Cabinet, he was living abroad with his family where he was manager of Deutsche Bank. And after he became a Cabinet member, he was so busy they rarely saw him. Even in the few family gatherings that he was able to attend, there were so many people, it was impossible to talk business with him, she said.

As for the meeting she mentioned in her letter to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Ms Reyes said her brother, as finance secretary, only hosted the meeting in his office with the heads of other government agencies. She said that to avoid any conflict of interest, Camacho excused himself and left soon after the meeting started.

My own view of the whole mess is that had somebody else won in the public auction of the zero bonds, the deal would have won applause, instead of opprobrium, for the novel idea of raising funds. And that had the sister of the finance secretary not been a member of the NGO that won the auction, there would have been no big to-do at all. But everything is easy to see on hindsight. At that time, nobody even dreamed there would be any problem as everything was legal and transparent.

Does Ms Reyes feel guilty that her brother may not be confirmed because of her?

"I really feel very bad," she answered.

"Does her brother blame her?"

"He hasn't said anything. We rarely see each other anyway."

Golden ages

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DROVE back to my hometown some days ago, and talked with some friends one night, amid friendly spirits and spirited laughter, turned by fits funny and nostalgic. As is usual in rituals like this, people recollected their pranks in elementary school. As is more usual in rituals like this, people recollected their once harried teachers with much fondness. And respect: Those teachers, everyone agreed, were teachers when teachers were teachers.

Though poorly paid, they went to class on time and were always spic and span. You couldn't find a crease in their uniforms, they had ironed them diligently the night before and wore them proudly the next day. They were strict, no doubt about that. There was no end of stories about their boundless inventiveness in finding the appropriate punishment for offenders. Including flying erasers and those playing horsy-horsy being tethered to a post. But they were also extraordinarily giving. They were determined to bring light to the minds of the ignorant, or recalcitrant, and they did it with a zeal that rivaled that shown by missionaries in October, the Catholic mission month.

The phrase that kept cropping up was "the Golden Age." Ours was "the Golden Age" of the school we went to. Years afterward, one said, that school spun into decline. It grew bigger, it had more buildings and more students, but it was never the same. It got more teachers, but they never possessed the same dedication ours did.

Even when fortified by drink and nostalgia, however, I tend to be a little skeptical of sentiments like this, and did suggest that 30 or so years from now, today's kids will probably be saying the same thing. Theirs was the Golden Age of their school. The sun shone brighter, the breezes blew stronger, the summers stretched on like a shimmering pond. They had funnier times, their teachers were so much better than what their own kids have. Nostalgia has a way of putting filters in images, giving them a sheen that the everyday dullness, or even sullenness, of that time lacked.

But I also wondered if there was not a grain of truth in our spirited (in more ways than one) belief that we had better teachers than most kids now do. Two things argued for it.

The first was that teaching then offered enough to live on. It is not how much you get, it is how much what you get buys. Food in the province was cheap. You didn't even have to go to the market—which you could just walk to anyway—to buy fish and meat. They were sold by itinerant vendors at prices that weren't much different from the market. Life was generally tolerable, if not pleasant. A teacher's pay left enough room for some amenities, like movies and books, though there were only a couple of bookstores, which sold popular titles. You could devote your waking hours, or life, to teaching and live decently.

Which isn't the case today. It's not just university professors that are compelled to supplement their income by sidelines, particularly consultancies here and there, and everywhere. (I understand most professors are able to teach only a few units a week now. But that's another story, a sad one that tells how we've fallen into the lower rungs of the list of good schools in Asia.) Elementary and high school teachers have to do so too. And not just the public school teachers, who have given new meanings to entrepreneurship, with their *tocino* and bra and jeans at "four gives," but the private ones too, who sell insurance on the side. The saddest thing I heard was when a friend of mine told me he was leaving for distant shores because he could no longer feed his family by teaching here.

But it wasn't just that teaching fetched a reasonably good living then, it was that teaching offered a tremendously good life then. That's very true, someone would say a little more thoughtfully at our raucous gathering. His parents were both teachers, rising through the ranks to become officials in their schools though they continued to handle classes, and they were looked upon with much respect, if not awe, by their neighborhood. They were invited to important social functions, and given pride of place there. The neighbors called his father and mother "Sir" and "Ma'am" even if they were not students of theirs. The money wasn't that good—even then, teaching was never an invitation to a big house and bountiful material blessings—but it was more than made up for by esteem of the community.

That's what has truly disappeared over time, which isn't the product of nostalgia. Indeed, the opposite has happened. Teachers are no longer held in very high esteem, they are held in a very low one. I don't know how this has happened, but it has. The enrollment in normal schools, like the enrollment in seminaries, has plunged to record lows. I can't say I particularly rue the second, but I do say I particularly rue the first. Teaching is the last choice of students, even less than humanities and literature. The lack of attraction doesn't have to do only with the financial income, it has to do with the psychic one. There is no respect to make up for the impoverishment anymore. As people like to quote these days and not always in jest, indeed often derisively: People who can't do, teach.

I don't know how we came to be this foolish. Maybe it's our desperate plight, though it is another addition to the magic realism of this country that the one fellow who contributed mightily to it was the son of a teacher, Ferdinand Marcos. Well, he probably took after his father. But the process is making us drift farther and farther away from our moral moorings. Enough to make us believe as we cast a glance at the receding horizon that we did leave a shining glory behind.

We did leave a Golden Age behind.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Guingona-Romulo tensions being fanned

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MEDIA have been systematically fed by their unnamed sources with information highlighting the tensions between Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., and former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo over inputs into and influence in foreign policy.

The "feed" appears to be directed at Romulo, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on international competitiveness, but its objective is to show the administration cannot get its act together as it grapples with the controversial deployment of American soldiers in Basilan and Zamboanga in the joint RP-US "Balikatan 02-1" military exercises. It also seeks to embarrass Romulo, and indirectly the administration, over the hiring of the Washington-based PR firm, Burson and Marsteller, to paint a favorable image for the President in her trips abroad. It makes a big issue of the two competing centers of foreign policy inputs—one, the office of Romulo on Sikatuna Street in Makati, and the other, the Department of Foreign Affairs on Roxas Boulevard.

The overlap between Guingona's role and that of Romulo is already public knowledge. Guingona has called the President's attention about this, and it is a fact that he has been bypassed by the President on matters of appointments of ambassadors and that she has relied more on the counsel of Romulo on important policy issues than on Guingona's.

This is not, however, the point. I have confirmed that the systematic feed to the press about this festering jurisdictional tension does not come from either Guingona or Romulo. That's not their style. While it is true that both have addressed the dispute face to face, outside parties have fueled it to show serious policy divisions in the conduct of foreign policy. From diplomatic sources, the information bashing the conduct of foreign policy is orchestrated by a group composed of a former ambassador and an incumbent senator.

The purpose of this campaign is to undermine the foreign policy front of the administration as it stakes Philippine national security in a policy of alignment with the United States in the fight against the international network of terrorists, with links in the Philippines.

President Macapagal has made a bold gamble in foreign policy through this alignment and in allowing the deployment of US troops in Basilan and Zamboanga in exercises where the Abu Sayyaf operates. The terms of reference of the exercises allow them to fire back if fired upon. She has gone out of the way to buttress this policy of alignment with a legal opinion by the justice department, holding that the Balikatan exercises are constitutional and consistent with the Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1999 Visiting Forces Agreement.

In this important foreign policy initiative, the President has gained significant military and economic aid needed to improve the capacity of the Armed Forces to combat insurgencies and to pump resources into the economy to recover from an economic slowdown. Thus, the policy of alignment in the US-led campaign against international terrorist networks is not merely about joint military exercises in Mindanao but has also economic dimensions.

The nationalists, the Left and other opponents of the deployment, including those who are trying to sow discord in the process of foreign policy formulation and implementation, are proposing restrictions on tactical aspects of the exercises. Such restrictions have the effect of tying the hands of Americans in helping train Filipino soldiers with new hi-tech weaponry and tactics in fighting terrorists, learned from experiences in Afghanistan and elsewhere, and reducing their chance of success.

Some groups seek to incorporate in the terms of reference (TOR) detailed rules on purely tactical matters. All these specific qualifications are ridiculous. When soldiers go on exercises, let alone combat missions, details are never revealed and troops are given enough flexibility to respond to hostile action, the objective being to win an encounter and defeat the enemy. In the midst of action, soldiers don't think about whether they are validating a Constitution or engaging in debates over sovereignty. Soldiers are not lawyers. They fight to win—not to lose, for if they lose, sovereignty and the authority of the state over its enemies are also lost.

The role of the US troops was stated clearly by Adm. Dennis Blair, the US Pacific Command chief, who said: "If…US advisers…get involved in a firefight, the US soldiers will do what the Philippine officers on the left and right are doing. But it's not that US soldiers are being used as an assault or leading element."

The opponents of the policy of alignment, which is being implemented in the deployment of American soldiers in the Balikatan exercises, do not want the exercises to succeed because if they succeed in crushing or in at least neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf, that would vindicate the policy. Public opinion on the ground appears to favor the deployment. Most people want this festering insurgency, that mocks national sovereignty, wiped out.

The methodical fanning of the tensions between Guingona and Romulo is one aspect of the effort to shoot down the foreign policy gamble of the administration. It would be to the best interest of the administration if it clears up the gray areas of responsibility between Guingona and Romulo, so it would not give ammunition to those who seek the failure of policy.

'Ukay-ukay' memories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THANKS for the memories, *ukay-ukay*, that is if Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman succeeds in enforcing a proposed ban on the sale of donated used clothes that have made their way to shops and stalls around the country, from Baguio to Manila, to Davao and Zamboanga.

I really don't know how the *ukay-ukay* trade began. From what I hear, it started with donations of used clothes from abroad, intended for the poor and for victims of disasters. Because they were for charitable purposes, the boxes of used clothing could come in tax-free. Unfortunately, to paraphrase a cliché, the poor and disaster victims can't live on clothes alone. So some of the recipient NGOs began selling the boxes of used clothes for money to buy more urgent necessities: medicines, canned goods, rice, blankets, mats.

There are reports that the imported used-clothes trade became so lucrative that smugglers began muscling in, and soon dropped even the pretense of charity. Being able to get their wares at practically no cost, the vendors could sell the garments at rock-bottom prices, driving up demand. Soon, even middle-class shoppers, whose natural domain is the air-conditioned mall, dropped all inhibitions and joined bargain-hunters bending and kneeling before the mounds of used clothes and digging through the piles.

"Ukay-ukay" is a Visayan term that means "dig through," for that is what customers have to do to find the best bargain. In Baguio, natives also use the term *"wagwag,"* which means to dust off. My friends in Baguio even make a distinction between the used garments sold in piles on the sidewalk and those that hang from garment racks in small stores at the Baguio public market. If the sidewalk is the *"wagwagan,"* the stores are "SM," a pun on the department store chain that really means *"segunda mano"* or second-hand.

* * *

THE BIGGEST *ukay-ukay* emporium in the country can be found in Zamboanga, a huge public market that even has its wares classified: a section entirely for denim jeans, another for blankets, curtains and household items, children's clothes, dresses (formals and casuals), and even stall after stall with bags, backpacks and shoes on display.

While there are *ukay-ukay* outlets in cities all over Mindanao and the Visayas, the ones in Baguio have gained a reputation for having the best quality items, with some still bearing their foreign designer labels. Friends report that buying *ukay-ukay* even has its unexpected rewards, as some second-hand coats, jackets and handbags may contain bills and coins in all sorts of foreign currencies, from dollar to yen to lira.

Still, the primary thrill of shopping the *ukay-ukay* way is finding the elusive bargain amid an unpromising pile. My husband and children used to be quite disdainful of my propensity for coming home with *ukay-ukay* items from out-of-town trips until they accompanied me last year on a trip to Baguio. My teenage daughter was looking for a trench coat to bring with her on a planned trip to the United States. So while I was in meetings, the three of them visited the *wagwagan* shops. There they found jackets and coats that were going for incredibly low prices, Baguio being the center of trade for cold-weather wear. My daughter eventually found a long coat with an Italian label for P200. She also spotted a leather jacket for P300 but it was one size too small.

* * *

UKAY-UKAY'S popularity, especially in Baguio, inevitably ate into the market share of more mainstream stores. These days, I'm told, nobody in Baguio bothers to step into department stores anymore, since items on the sidewalks and the *wagwagan* strip sell for about one-fourth of retail prices, if not even less.

Which is why Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit in a radio interview told the interviewer that he believes the ban on *ukay-ukay* is "more a trade issue than a health issue." Radio commentators filled the air with dire warnings of possible health hazards from the second-hand clothes, ranging from bugs to body odor. But these are problems a good washing with a strong detergent and hours drying in the sun should solve readily.

More problematic is the unfair competition posed by *ukay-ukay* merchants, who pay no or minimal taxes for their imported second-hand wares, against the mainstream retailers and importers paying taxes and customs duties.

The practically moribund textile and garments industry has also weighed in, claiming *ukay-ukay* has driven down demand for brand-new locally made clothes, which could lead to even more unemployment. To this, the *ukay-ukay* merchants counter that a total ban would endanger the livelihood of hundreds of employees and their families. And what about *ukay-ukay* shoppers who would have to give up their shopping habits cold turkey?

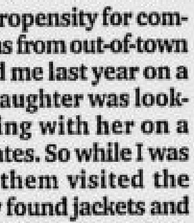
* * *

SECRETARY Soliman does have a point when she points out that the issue goes beyond economics, trade or even health. "National dignity" is also at stake here, she says. And President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who had already sought to enforce an *ukay-ukay* ban when she was social welfare secretary, gives Soliman full support on this issue.

Certainly, there is deception involved here. The folks who donate their used clothes and items to Goodwill and other such groups do so in the expectation that these will be used to benefit poor people in the developing world. For whatever reason and however the route, they may not feel all that comfortable knowing that their donations end up on the backs of comfortable middle-class folk "slumming" in *ukay-ukay* shops for a bargain. We don't need the rest of the world to know that Filipinos would exploit even charity for profit.

More areas of history still to study/write on

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN students e-mail me asking for term paper or thesis topics, I worry about the kind of education they went through. Based on the popularity of game shows these days, it seems that every question must have one corresponding "correct" answer. Game shows mimic in a more glitzy way the piggy-bank notion of education where students "learn" or rather store data in the head to be withdrawn on demand during an examination or a game show. My memory being frail, I never liked this type of leaning because the end result exterminated natural curiosity in students.

I encourage students to ask questions if only to make them curious about themselves, their world and their place in the universe. Every semester I try to wean my students—unsuccessfully I think—from stock answers to force them to see beyond what they know or what they think they know. Education, for me, is not so much about finding the right answers to given problems, but generating more questions to keep the mind and spirit alive.

If I had more time and patience I would go and interview older historians, talk to them about their life and work, then ask them to outline the research areas they had not completed. Some people stock material for a book (or books) that, for a number of reasons, will never be written. When they retire or pass away, their papers will go to a junk heap and so much effort wasted. Looking at my own filing cabinets bursting with photocopied documents, articles and clippings, I realize that I will never get to utilize everything I have. I could decide to become a hermit tomorrow and continue to write this column for 20 years without leaving my study.

A few days ago I excavated an undated notebook in my files and I saw the beginnings of research projects I did not complete. Perhaps it was too much *kamaru* at a Kapampangan restaurant but I was deep into locusts or *langostas* as they are listed in the documents at the Philippine National Archives. I went through issues of the "Philippine Agricultural Review" from 1908-1913 gathering everything I could find on locusts, and along the way I also took note of rats and other agricultural pests. I have stray references to Transylvanian carabos and even recipes for locust in coconut milk!

There was even an article that claimed that in the late 19th century, elephants could be found in a wild or semi-wild state in the Philippines! In places like Jolo, the elephants were pushed to extinction to preserve crops. Thus, the "Philippine Agricultural Review" suggested that these pygmy elephants measuring about 1.6 meters in height be used as work animals especially in Mindanao, Samar, Mindoro and Palawan. Each elephant had the "pulling power" of four carabaos and could be put to good use in the forest region. I thought that these pygmy elephants were only found as fossils in archeological sites and were thus called *elephas Beyeri* in honor of the pioneering pre-historian of the Philippines, H. Otley Beyer. If I had persevered in this line of research instead of heroes of the late 19th century, my whole life would be different and I would probably be teaching in UP Los Baños rather than the Ateneo.

My notebook also contained lists of bundles in the Philippine National Archives I planned to request and photocopy: "Asuntos de Anting-anting (Cases on Anting-anting)," "Calamidades publicas (Public calamities)," "Carreras de caballos (Horse races)," "Comision de Censura (Commission on Censorship)," which is the ancestor of the present MTRCB, "Dementes (Mad people)," "Divorcio, Españoles o Filipinos celebres (Famous Spaniards or Filipinos in the Philippines)," "Exposiciones y ferias (Fairs and Expositions)," which turned out to be the expos in Amsterdam and Madrid where the Philippines participated, "Festejos y Celebraciones (Feasts and Celebrations)," "Laboratorios Medico-legal de Manila, Monumentos, Orden Publico (Public Order)," which was a natural opposite of *calamidades publicas*, "Sociedad Telefonica de Manila, Telefonos" and "Viveres y Bagajes." There were also a number of maps and plans in the archives that caught my fancy like an 1883 street plan for travelers and even the plans for the State Room in the ship S.S. Rizal dating back to 1911.

The bundle on horse races turned out to be a dud because it only contained contracts, rules and other administrative matters on racing in Pampanga, Pangasinan and Cebu. I was looking for the names of horses and jockeys and the regulation of winning and betting. My interest in the Sociedad Telefonica was to find out who were the first people who owned telephones and how they coped with new technology. All I found was a huge bundle, rather interesting, on the connection of telephones, the statutes of the company, etc. The bundle I thought contained *telefonos* was actually *telegrafos*.

In recent years the Spanish government through its embassy in Manila, has helped modernize the Philippine National Archives that now boasts of a conservation and restoration laboratory. The interior of the building has been renovated, and archival documents are being digitalized for easier access. Now, all we need are more curious people who will dig up the other gray areas in our history..

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Senior citizen

HIGH BLOOD

Raymunda P. Ortega

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves.—**Ed.**

WHAT exactly does the term "senior citizen" mean? It refers, among others, to members of our society, both male and female, who have reached the age of 60 and above. Regardless of health, wealth, literacy, civil status and social standing, all of us, born in 1942 and earlier, belong to this category. Being such brings a lot of pluses and minuses at this stage of our lives.

No longer young as the junior members of our society are, we have our own world to live in, we have our experiences and lessons from the past to bank on, we have our memories both sweet and bitter to recall. Those, no one can take away from us. We had our time during our prime. We enjoyed life to the fullest extent we could. We had our successes and failures in our chosen careers. We had lots of fun with crushes and impossible dreams of glory and grandeur.

On the physical side, at past 60, we may no longer have the flawless complexion of our youth or the whistle-bait figure of long ago, yet vividly alive in our minds were those days when we were chosen *"sagalas"* during Santacruzans or contestants in beauty contests in our own barrios or communities. Still fresh in my 70-year-old memory was the coming out party I had in January of 1950. At 18 then, life held nothing but the beautiful promises of the future. Now in my senior years, I find that most, if not all I looked forward to then, had come to pass through God's love and mercy.

In those days, when society was still drug-free, we looked forward to being serenaded with love songs during moonlit nights by our neighborhood swains. These same swains who by now, (if they are still around) are senior citizens like us, may be recalling those days when they were "macho" guys who at times preferred spending their time girl-watching rather than studying.

Being a senior citizen, to me, is something to enjoy and be proud of. From waking up in the morning to the time I call it a day at 10 p.m., I relish my present status of being a government retiree. I sincerely do. Just seeing how the younger members of my family rush to their respective occupations on weekdays, be it school or the office, skipping breakfast, rushing to and fro while getting ready and then battling the daily traffic outside, I cast my eyes heavenward and thank God that all that is behind me now. My time is my own now, although two of my 12 grandchildren, ages one and 6 are left with me to baby-sit while their parents are at work. Again I say, the joys these two children bring me and their *lolo* far outweigh the physical exertions demanded by the task of caring for them. Even with our arthritis and rheumatism, their *lolo* and I have to dance and play as the occasion and these two angels demand it!

Then at sunset, as the younger members of my family arrive, my husband and I supervise the preparation of the evening meal so that our loved ones, who surely are exhausted from their day's work, may find a loving welcome for them at home.

I do appreciate Republic Act 7432 which states, among others, that it is "an act to maximize the contribution of senior citizens to nation-building, to grant benefits and special privileges, etc." With the passage of this act, I feel that we, who are in the 60s bracket and above, are being recognized and cared for by our government. In our twilight years, we are not merely being ignored, bypassed or regarded as burdens of our family and society, but are made to feel important still as we were during our productive years.

That is the heart of the Filipino. Our culture calls for the loving care and respect for our elders. We do not just cast them aside and leave them to care for themselves. Since my husband and I are now among the seniors of society, I do feel more keenly this beautiful trait of the Filipino, and I am so happy and proud of being one.

Raymunda P. Ortega, 70, was a court stenographer at the Regional Trial Court Branch 87 of Quezon City

NY, the same as always

Denis Murphy

THE CHANGES in lifestyle that occurred in New York after the World Trade Center disaster have disappeared. New Yorkers talk of a special time then when they were more compassionate, polite and patriotic, but they all admit that time is gone. Life in the city is back to normal. New York's newfound patriotism was the change most suspect in foreign eyes. At best it included a sense, a friend told me, "that these (other New Yorkers) are my people and I should care for them and stick with them." At worst it was emotional hoopla.

A symbol of this reversion to the old ways is the wall on lower Broadway where people placed memorial flowers, photos, prayers and pictures after the Sept. 11 tragedy. I went there recently in the rain. It was a forlorn place. The flowers are long withered, the messages and photos are waterlogged. There are no new prayers, photos or messages. Few people stop to pay attention. One of the pictures still on the wall is of a certain Ariel Vasquez. It doesn't give his nationality. I wondered if he was Filipino.

Another more mundane symbol of New York's return to normality was the refusal of three big corporation buildings to let me use their toilets.

I tried to get close to the actual site but found it blocked off on every side. There is a viewing platform, but tickets are needed and there wasn't time to get one. Through holes in the fences I could see the cranes, bulldozers and trucks with their lights flashing, clearing the rubble. They were working just below street level, but workmen recently found a train seven stories underground. Luckily, it was out of service when the towers fell.

It is the absence of the WTC towers rather than anything on the ground that shocks. I remember often passing by them on Sunday mornings on my way to Battery Park. They compelled you to stop and look at them. Some say the towers spoke of arrogance, but I think it was rather a matter of exultation. They weren't beautiful in anyway and weren't meant to be. The towers were an exuberant demonstration of what mighty things people can do and no more arrogant than a great athlete's actions. And so they were youthful and would never age.

They were visible wherever you were in lower Manhattan. In the morning the sunlight rushed on them like a river and threw up sprayed sunlight; in the evening half the lights would still be on at close to midnight. Now they're all gone.

Life is back to normal. A sense of unity or solidarity (true patriotism) is hard to maintain in New York where there are so many divisions of race, color and religion. The differences make for competition which drives the city's institutions. Differences and competition are the city's essence.

News about the war in Afghanistan leads off the news each night but New Yorkers don't seem absorbed in the matter. Economic problems are more often discussed, the collapse of Enron, for example.

There are news stories about the WTC but they are more for the tabloids than the New York Times. However, not all the stories are trivial. There is a controversy as to how money donated for the families of the victims should be divided. The government arbitrator proposes to make the chief criterion the amount of money the victim would make in the rest of his life. Thus, a young stockbroker's widow would get about $4.5 million while a 45-year-old janitor might get only $.5 million. Most people I talked to want the money divided equally.

The WTC's destruction shocked New Yorkers and for a while they were different people, and then the old ways returned. It is similar to the post-Edsa I and II days. For a while people are inspired by high ideals or crises, but gradually slip back into their old ways. People don't seem to be able to live very long in the moral fast lane.

Denis Murphy is over 60 and works with the Urban Poor Associates.

LETTERS

Tale of Mike Tyson's biorhythmic readings

IT looks like we would again be deprived of the opportunity to see the century's classic fight between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson after the Nevada State Athletic Commission rejected the license bid of Tyson to fight on April 6.

I think you'd agree when I say that there is no other more exciting bout in all boxing divisions other than a Lewis-Tyson confrontation. These two boxers are the only saving grace of a fast-dying sport due to the lack of exciting boxers in the Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard molds.

This could be the reason why Lewis plans to retire after the Tyson fight for lack of worthy opponents and money-making bouts. Lewis has defeated all fighters of note in the heavyweight division and only Tyson remains as a worthy opponent.

But this Nevada fiasco could've been avoided had people only believed in the usefulness of biorhythms in managing an individual's daily activities and be able to maximize his positive points and minimize the effects of his negative readings.

If only the people behind Tyson knew his biorhythm readings last Jan. 22 when they staged their press conference, they would've found out that their fighter was virtually a "loose cannon" on that fateful day.

Tyson was triple negative in all his biorhythm readings, physical, emotional and intellectual last Jan. 22. Physically, his biorhythm was a -4 and just two days after hitting his lowest or bottom on Jan. 20.

Emotionally, Tyson's biorhythm was a similar -4 on Jan. 22 and five days after hitting his lowest last Jan. 17.

Intellectually, he was a deep -5 with his lowest on Jan. 26.

The press conference should have been held either earlier or later when Tyson was on his positive and highest biorhythm readings, but of course that's already history.

However, postponing the bout on April 6 would work to Tyson's favor because on this date the poor boxer will just be a "sacrificial lamb" for Lewis as the former will again be suffering from almost triple negative readings on that day.

Tyson will be a plus one physically but only one day after hitting critical on April 5. Emotionally he will be a -2 on April 6 after hitting critical on April 4. Intellectually Tyson will be a deeper -4 after hitting his lowest on April 2.

With all these biorhythm readings, Tyson and all other boxers, even non-boxers like businessmen, students, employees, managers, salesmen, etc. should already be aware of their cycles to take advantage of their peaks and be cautious and wary of critical and lowest days. Even teams involved in basketball, volleyball and football are already into biorhythms in the United States, Europe and Japan, to avoid unnecessary injuries and maximizing good days.

With regard to the Philippines, we are almost zero in utilizing biorhythms in our daily lives and murders like those of actress Nida Blanca and Capt. Baron Cervantes could have been avoided or accidents like those of Maria Teresa Carlson and sweethearts Vandolph Quizon and Desiree Raquiza might not have happened.

—FROILAN ANTONIO, 27 Moldero St., BF Homes, Quezon City

Imported snacks in flag carrier

FIRST, I thank the Philippine Airlines for bringing back the INQUIRER inside the cabin. It enables PAL patrons to save P12 or P15 (P20 in the provinces) on each flight. Before this, I made sure that I had the paper (bought from sidewalk, mobile vendors or the airport stand) before boarding the plane. *Salamat talaga!*

In one of my recent flights from Bacolod to Manila, I read about the reactivated "Buy Filipino" campaign. There was Lucio Tan grinning and being described in the caption as "one of the advocates of the Buy Filipino Movement." No wonder, I thought, since Tan is one of the big retailers of Pinoy products.

But I was disappointed when the cabin crew served snacks. The stewardess handed me a salad-flavored biscuit pack named GAP Salad. When I checked, it was manufactured by the United Foods Public Co. Ltd. of Bangkok, Thailand.

Now, we have the owner of PAL campaigning for patronage of our products and yet his planes, the nation's flag carrier at that, serves imported snacks.

Ganoon din ang Jollibee. Why is it that the so-called Filipino fast-food chain is selling toys made in China?

—ARNOLD C. DIVINO, Tanglaw Street, Plainview Subd., Mandaluyong City

Time to throw the book at generals

IF President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is really serious in crushing the Abu Sayyaf and other extremist elements in the South, she should light a fire under the seats of our military and police officers in that area. No amount of excuses will erase the fact that our Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police personnel have been remiss in their assigned task to uphold law and order in that vital jurisdiction. If it is true that our uniformed men maintain an unholy alliance with the kidnappers and murderers, then God help us.

Perhaps it is time the President lost her temper and threw the book at our generals and armchair officers. The military should perform their sworn duties and not engage in partisan politics and propaganda. Aren't they ashamed that it might take the intervention of a foreign military power to end these problems in the south? Where is their sense of pride and honor?

I say to the President: tell our generals to go jump in the lake if they cannot do their job. They waste too much of the taxpayers' money and are a burden to the citizenry.

—JOSE B. JUMAWAN, Ponteverde Subd., Cupang, Antipolo City

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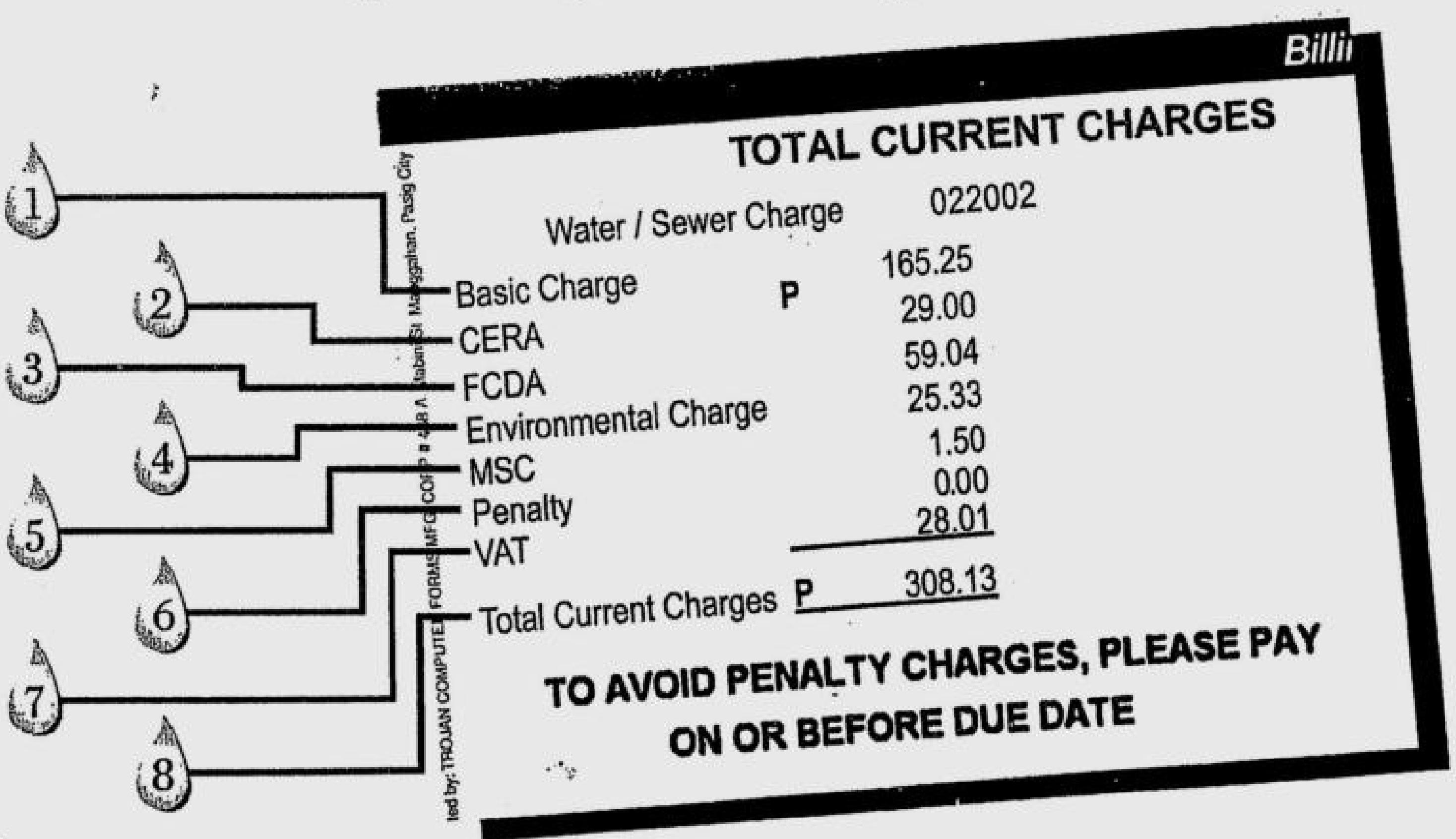
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TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES

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Water / Sewer Charge	
Basic Charge	P 165.25
CERA	29.00
FCDA	59.04
Environmental Charge	25.33
MSC	1.50
Penalty	0.00
VAT	28.01
Total Current Charges	P 308.13

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Here's how:

1 *Basic Charge* --
Billed cu.meter x water tariff: *P 165.25*

	Rate	Cubic meter consumed	rate charge
1st 10	38.35	10	38.35
next 10	4.68	10	46.80
next 20	8.90	9	80.10
	Total	29	165.25

2 *CERA* --
fixed at P 1.00* per cubic meter consumed
P 1.00 x 29 cubic meters = *P 29.00*

Billed Consumption (cu. m.)
Present Reading
Previous Reading
Consumption 29

3 *FCDA*** --
Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment is 35.73% *(for 1st quarter of 2002)* of basic charge
P 165.25 x 0.3573 = *P59.04*

4 *Environmental Charge**** --
10% of items 1, 2, 3
(P 165.25 + 29.00+ 59.04) = P 253.29
P 253.29 x .1 = *P 25.33*
(If connected to sewer line add 50% of items 1, 2 & 3)
(P 165.25 + 29.00 + 59.04) = P 253.29
P 253.2 x .5 = P 126.64

5 *MSC*--
Maintenance Service Charge based on meter size
P 1.50

Meter Size	Amount
1/2" or 13mm	P 1.50
3/4" or 20 mm	P 2.00
1" or 25 mm	P 3.00

6 *Penalty*--
3% of bills not paid on due date,
0.03 x all charges (except VAT), if any
P 0.00

7 *VAT*--
Value Added Tax 10% of items 1 to 6
P 165.25 + 29.00 + 59.04 + 25.33 + 1.50 + 0.00= P 280.10
P 280.10 x .1 = *P 28.01*

8 *Total Current Charges* --
total of items 1 to 7
P 165.25 + 29.00 + 59.04 + 25.33
+ 1.50 + 0.00 + 28.01
= *P 308.13*

* *CERA -- over the life of the concession.*
** *FCDA -- for recovery of Foreign Exchange losses for loans denominated in foreign currency.*
*** *Environmental Charge -- charged to all services to cover desludging and other environmental cleaning costs.*

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The WORLD

Editor Luvern B. Gueco

'Friendly-fire' deaths probed

KHAS URUZGAN, Afghanistan—Caked blood, charred bedding and flame-blackened walls serve as testimony to what Afghans say was a horrific mistake. Two weeks later, the Pentagon is investigating the deadly assault.

US special forces burst into a small religious school here on Jan. 23, killing 19 people, most of them where they slept, Afghans who survived or witnessed the raid said. Two of the 19—both members of a government-appointed delegation—were handcuffed and shot in the schoolyard, the Afghans claim.

The Pentagon first said the raid was an attack on an al-Qaida weapons dump, and that troops killed about 15 people and captured 27 Taliban and al-Qaida members. But the Afghans say the dead were not Taliban renegades at all, and instead included members of a government mission that had taken the weapons from Taliban holdouts.

Maj. Ralph Mills, a spokesperson for the US Central Command, acknowledged Wednesday that none of the 27 captured in the raid was al-Qaida or Taliban, and all have been released. He said the United States is investigating whether any of those killed were also the wrong people.

Mills said US forces were fired on during the raid, and one soldier was shot in the foot. He said the troops had strong intelligence information before moving in.

"Obviously, we had a reason to go into that area. We still stand firmly on that reason," he said.

Interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai said the United States had acknowledged it killed the wrong people in Khas Uruzgan. He told The Washington Post the killings were "a mistake of sorts," resulting from "an unfortunate movement of people at the wrong time."

Afghan witnesses say US planes also bombed government offices near the school and killed two more people there for a total of 21 dead.

The dead at the school, where members of the government mission were spending the night, included two locally prominent Pashtun commanders who residents say were instrumental in ending Taliban rule here in Uruzgan province.

AP

MEMBERS of an Afghan family look outside their mud shelter at Babayadgar camp in Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan Feb. 6. An estimated 50,000 people are displaced around Mazar-e-Sharif brought about by two decades of war and severe drought. REUTERS

US planes bomb Taliban hideouts

KABUL—US aircraft have launched bombing raids over parts of eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistan border where remnants of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida are believed to be hiding, an Afghan official said on Thursday.

US aircraft bombed the Mafazatoo area of Gorboz district, about 20 km to the south of the town of Khost, on Tuesday and late on Wednesday, an official in neighboring Paktia province said.

"The bombing was very heavy," said Wazir Zadran, brother of the ousted governor of Paktia province.

"Gorboz is an area where we have al-Qaida and Taliban people," he said. He said he had no more details or information about casualties.

Early last month US aircraft flew sustained bombing raids over areas near Khost but there have been few attacks in the last two weeks.

The report came as US officials in Washington said a missile fired by remote control from a pilotless CIA aircraft has hit what was believed to be a group of senior al-Qaida members in the same general region, killing at least one of them.

"It was a CIA Predator missile that was fired upon what was thought to be a senior al-Qaida official," said a US official, who asked not to be identified.

He said the attack took place on Monday night.

"At least one was killed and possibly others. It's not clear who the individual was," the official said, adding that bad weather in the region had prevented a mission to identify bodies.

The al-Qaida leader who was killed in the attack was taller than the handful of others surrounding him, leading to some speculation about whether the United States may have hit its most wanted man in the war on terrorism—Osama bin Laden.

Was it Osama who died? US officials mum

WASHINGTON—US defense and intelligence official refused to comment late Wednesday on a flurry of media reports that a high-ranking al-Qaida official, possibly Osama bin Laden himself, was killed in southeastern Afghanistan earlier this week.

"We are not commenting on these reports now," Central Intelligence Agency spokesperson Fred Leeder said.

A spokesperson for the department of defense declined all comment as well, while Commander Frank Merriman of the central command said, "I can tell it was not our operation."

"Our Predator was not involved," he added.

Citing unnamed officials and other sources, all major US television networks reported late Wednesday that an unmanned Predator drone operated by the CIA fired a missile Monday at a group of people believed to be senior al-Qaida leaders meeting near a cave complex known as Zawar Khili.

According to CBS News, Osama bin Laden and his top lieutenants are believed to have been hiding in Zawar Khili, in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, since escaping the US bombing in the Tora Bora Mountains two months ago.

The attack reportedly occurred after the Predator first spotted a convoy of sport-utility vehicles accompanied by armed guards and then three men in robes getting out of the cars.

The Predator fired at least one RQ-1 Hellfire anti-tank missiles, directly hitting the men who had gathered outside the cars, NBC News reported.

AFP

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Palestinian gunman kills 3; Israel bombs city

JERUSALEM—Israeli warplanes bombed the West Bank city of Nablus early Thursday after a Palestinian gunman went on a shooting spree at a Jewish settlement, gunning down a woman settler and her baby, as well as a soldier, before being killed himself.

Israeli F-16s dropped three bombs on the headquarters of the Palestinian governor of Nablus, in the West Bank, an AFP correspondent said.

The flurry of violence came just hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon left on a high-profile visit for Washington in a bid to further isolate Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom he has branded "irrelevant" and kept in isolation in the West Bank town of Ramallah for two months.

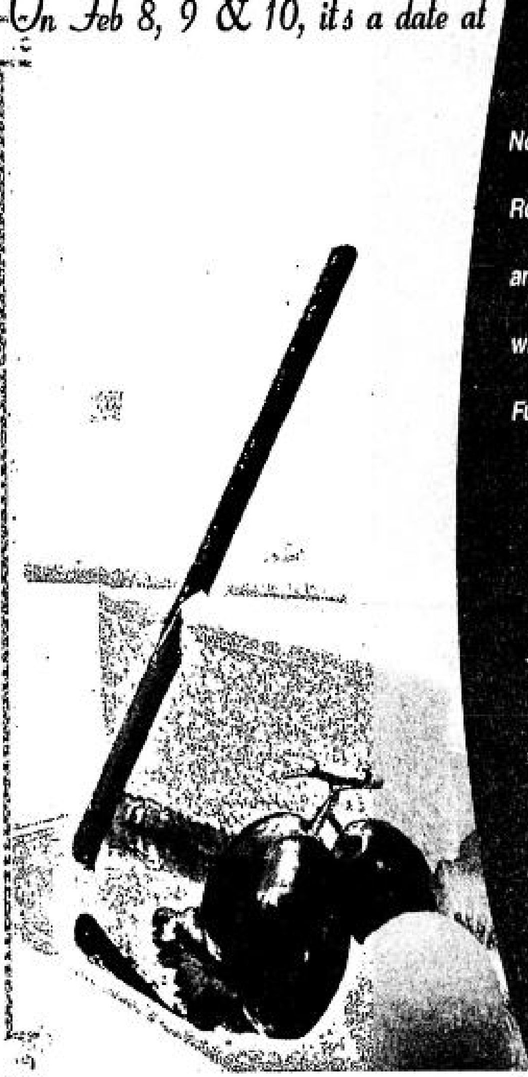
Sharon is expected to ask US President George W. Bush to seek an alternative to Arafat, whom Israel blames for anti-Israeli attacks, including the one Wednesday night on the Hamra plantation in the Jordan Valley.

The gunman opened fired with an automatic weapon on a group of soldiers and then on a group of settlers in the greenhouse area of the settlement, where 40 families live, an Israeli military source said.

Three people—a mother, her infant son and a soldier—died of their wounds, while another three people, including a young daughter of the slain woman were also wounded, the source said.

An elite Israeli Army squad stormed the area shortly after the shooting spree and killed the gunman as he was trying to break into a house, he added.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed the attack, saying it was carried out by a member of its armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, a spokesperson told the Shiite militia Hezbollah's television station in Lebanon. **AFP**



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Irish bank accuses rogue US dealer of stealing $750M in options scam

BALTIMORE—Ireland's biggest bank has accused a currency trader at its Baltimore subsidiary of stealing $750 million in what could be the largest such scam since a rogue employee brought down England's Barings Bank in the mid-1990s.

John Rusnak, 37, is suspected of defrauding Allfirst, the US subsidiary of Allied Irish Banks where he worked in the treasury department. He was not charged by authorities, but lawyers said he met voluntarily with the FBI and federal prosecutors Wednesday afternoon.

RUSNAK

"My client is not a fugitive," lawyer Bruce Lamdin said. "We hope that things will take their natural course from here. That's up to the US attorney's office."

News of the scam sent financial stocks lower across Europe, led by Allied Irish. Analysts said if such a conservative, well-run bank could suffer such a breach of security, almost any bank could.

Five treasury workers at the bank have been suspended, including Rusnak. Allied Irish said people outside the bank may also have been involved in the scam.

"We are hugely disappointed that our Allfirst control procedures failed to uncover this situation at an earlier stage," Allied Irish chief executive Michael Buckley said in Dublin. "The investigation now under way will determine not only how it arose but also how we can guard against any recurrence."

Buckley said it was not clear whether Rusnak pocketed some or all the missing money.

Bank officials described Rusnak as a married father of two who has worked at Allfirst since 1993. They said he was paid $85,000 a year, a modest amount for a currency trader with his experience.

Officials at the US Attorney's office said they were investigating Rusnak and the FBI confirmed that it was looking into missing money at Allfirst.

The case has stirred memories of Nick Leeson, the Singapore trader who destroyed Barings Bank by piling up $1.4 billion in concealed losses. The case prompted banks worldwide to tighten internal checks and balances.

Allied Irish insisted the damage is not comparable.

"It is a heavy blow, but I want to make the point very clearly that it's a blow we will recover from," Buckley said.

Allied Irish said the scam involved forged purchasing records for options contracts, starting early last year and ending just after Christmas.

According to Buckley, midlevel Allfirst managers confronted Rusnak by telephone last weekend when the magnitude of the forgery was discovered. Allied Irish said "alarm bells went off" when the trader did not return calls Sunday night, then failed to arrive for work Monday. **AP**

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Quiet ex-Enron exec's millions scrutinized

WASHINGTON—Lou Pai slipped quietly away from Enron Corp. last June, but the $270 million the longtime executive made cashing in his stock options is pulling him back into the tumult around the fallen energy trader.

By most accounts, Pai's quiet exit was typical of a low-key but mostly successful career at the Houston-based energy trader. Though his last few years running Enron Energy Services, the firm's retail energy business, included some setbacks, he was regarded as a gifted operations executive.

"There is a saying that the best of all leaders is but a shadowy presence, and that was Lou," said a former employee who worked for Pai at EES. "He just never seemed to be there, but he threw his weight around when it was needed."

The 54-year-old Enron executive is still mostly in the shadows. But Pai's name recognition has grown—chiefly since he was sued for what plaintiff's lawyers allege was insider trading to the tune of $270 million.

For that tidy sum, minus taxes and the cost of exercising his roughly five million options, Pai's name tops the list of 29 Enron insiders and directors who are being sued. Pai, who owns a horse breeding ranch near Houston and a part of a massive Colorado ranch that Enron employees call "Mount Pai," raked in nearly three times as much money as former Chair and Chief Executive Kenneth Lay. He is a distant second with $101 million.

Pai's lawyer, J.C. Nickens, said during a court hearing earlier this year that his client had to cash out to pay a divorce multimillion-dollar settlement, a fact that others have corroborated.

"His entire option stake was cashed out not because of him being psychic or anything, but because he was going through a nasty divorce at the time," said one former EES executive who worked closely with Pai but asked not to be identified.

Pai, through his lawyer, declined be interviewed.

Considered one of former Enron Chief Executive Officer Jeff Skilling's longtime allies, Pai's career path followed closely behind Skilling's rise to the top. A former Conoco executive, Pai worked with Skilling in the lucrative wholesale unit, Enron Capital and Trade, where he created the company's natural gas risk management group. He was given the reins of the retail unit in 1997. ***Reuters***

SEX FOOTAGE SCANDAL REUTERS

Taiwan TV reporter-turned-politician Chu Mei-feng speaks during an interview in Taipei Feb. 7. Taiwan prosecutors charged Chu's ex-boyfriend Tsai Jen-chien, former mayor of the northern city of Hsinchu, for invading Chu's privacy by secretly filming her making love in the island's most gripping scandal.

Prominent militant seen behind Pearl kidnapping

KARACHI—Islamic militant Sheikh Omar, a leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad extremist group, has emerged as a chief suspect behind the kidnapping of US journalist Daniel Pearl, investigators said Wednesday.

Sources involved in the police investigation said three men arrested here overnight had identified Omar as the source of e-mails containing photographs of Pearl in captivity.

"They have told investigators that they sent the e-mails with photographs on the directives of Sheikh Omar," one investigator said, on condition of anonymity.

He said police later raided Omar's in-laws' house in the eastern city of Lahore and arrested some of his relatives.

The three arrests in this southern port city, where the Wall Street Journal reporter was last seen 14 days ago, could lead to a "breakthrough" in the search, police said.

The investigation has so far led to 13 arrests, including six in Karachi, five in Lahore and two in Islamabad, but Pearl's fate remained unknown.

Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said that information gleaned during "intense interrogation" of the three detained Tuesday night indicated, for the first time, that the kidnapping was the work of "a group and not a few individuals."

Police named the three as former police intelligence officer Adil Sheikh, and cousins Suleman Saqib and Fawad who were said to be members of Jaish-e-Mohammad.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty claimed responsibility for the abduction in two e-mails last week.

They threatened to kill Pearl by last Thursday, later extending the deadline to Friday, unless Pakistanis captured in Afghanistan and former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef were released from US custody. ***AFP***

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Bolinao fish kill spreads; emergency state declared

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The municipal council of Bolinao, Pangasinan, has declared the town under a state of emergency and classified it as a calamity area as the massive fish kill that hit the town's *bangus* (milkfish) aquaculture industry continued to affect more villages.

The fish kill, which started on Feb. 1 in Guiguiwanen beach in Barangay Luciente I, has spread to Lucero, Salud, Luciente II, Luna and Catubig.

Losses have increased to P600 million, reports said.

Resolution No. 2002-05, authored by Councilors George Celeste and Jasmine Camba, cited the fish kill's "unquantifiable damage and detrimental effects on the marine coastal resources in the affected fish pen and cage areas."

The resolution was approved after an emergency meeting of the executive and legislative branches of the local government on Wednesday.

"The accumulated decaying marine fauna and flora (have spread) continually to the adjacent coastal areas," it said.

The disaster has also affected the fishing industry of the town, a resident said.

"Some children can catch up to five kilos of fish a day near the beaches, but since the fish kill (hit the town), their nets have been empty," she said.

Johnny Gapuz, project development officer of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission, said the fish in the wild could have avoided the aquaculture areas when the dissolved oxygen (DO) in the town's waters started to be depleted.

"At least they can swim away to safe waters unlike the caged fish," he said.

The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute traced the fish kills to the proliferation of fish structures in the town that led to phytoplankton bloom and low DO in the town's waters.

The UPMSI said its initial laboratory tests showed that the fish kill coincided with a bloom of a phytoplankton identified as *Prorocentrum minimum* (*P. minimum*), which was reported to be associated with stagnant water.

Margaret Celeste, an advocate of local environmental issues, expressed concern over the accumulated and uncollected dead *bangus* which had begun to rot and emit foul odor.

She warned of their effects on the health of residents.

"The smell is really awful and may be harmful, especially to children," said Celeste.

She called on health authorities to act fast to stop the spread of diseases.

Some residents have complained of headache and stomachache because of the ammonia-like smell near the beaches, she said.

There have been no reports of cases of food poisoning from eating fish or shellfish gathered in the town.

Many owners have abandoned their fish pens and cages, leaving the dead *bangus* to decay inside these structures.

"We appealed to them to collect the *bangus* and dispose of them properly, but many operators have not cleaned their pens and cages yet," Celeste said.

In its resolution, the municipal council said the fish kill was a "disastrous occurrence (that) caused extensive damage and devastation to (Bolinao's) *bangus* aquaculture industry."

It deprived the local government, the fish structure owners and other stakeholders of income, revenues and benefits, the council said.

The *bangus* culture industry has boosted the economy of this town, which is among the biggest suppliers of *bangus* in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/08/02

LIBEL CHARGE

Tacloban mayor posts bail

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. on Monday posted a P10,000 bail before the regional trial court here upon learning that an arrest warrant was set to be served against him this week.

The warrant stemmed from libel charges filed against the mayor before the Sandiganbayan by the Ombudsman on Jan. 7, which acted on the complaint filed by Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo.

The Sandiganbayan, in turn, issued the arrest warrant against Romualdez on Jan. 17, court records showed.

The libel complaint was filed before the Ombudsman in October last year after the mayor, in a radio interview in August 2000, called Domingo a "liar," "a drug addict," "a silly, crazy no good person," "a disgrace to the RDC (Regional Development Council)" and an "ingrate."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, in a resolution dated Dec. 12, 2001 but released only last month, approved the filing of the libel charges.

Desierto said the mayor's public utterances ascribing vices or defects on Domingo "tend to cause (Domingo's) dishonor, discredit or contempt."

"Surely, no conclusion can be reached other than that probable cause for libel exists against the respondent," he said.

Romualdez has remained unavailable for comment. But city administrator Federico Triste, who spoke on his behalf, said the mayor was ready to answer the charges.

He has maintained that he did not utter any libelous statements against Domingo, Triste said.

"All (that the mayor) said, those statements were said in a banter. He was not serious when he said those words (against Domingo)," Triste said.

Rosely Fallorina, clerk of court of the Tacloban RTC, said Romualdez posted bail at around 10 a.m. on Monday. He was accompanied by Triste, a lawyer.

The bail bond was immediately approved by Executive Judge Leonilo Apita. Its certification was immediately transmitted to the Sandiganbayan clerk of court, Fallorina said.

The Sandiganbayan has set the mayor's arraignment for March 21.

Suspect in doc's killing nabbed

By N. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Police arrested the alleged gunman in Tuesday's killing of a surgeon in front of the Antique provincial hospital on Tuesday.

The suspect, Herman Labanon, 34, admitted killing Dr. Carlito Moleño, 42, when he was presented to reporters here yesterday. He said he was hired by a certain Junior Pido to kill Moleño for P50,000.

Senior Insp. Carlito Guion, town police chief, said Labanon, a resident of Laua-an town, was arrested by policemen while having coffee at a restaurant in the town.

Seized from him was an Australian-made 9-mm Gluck pistol, which was believed to be the gun used in shooting the surgeon.

Labanon said he met with Pido at Cindy's 2 restaurant here on Jan. 25 to discuss the plot to kill Moleño. He said Pido gave him a picture of the victim and P25,000 as down payment with the remaining amount to be given after the killing.

Dry spell worries Iloilo; cloud seeding proposed

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The clear sky and balmy weather that usher the dry season here have worried farmers who are seeing their rice crop wilt and rice paddies crack due to lack of water.

Provincial officials are requesting the Department of Agriculture to conduct cloud seeding operations to save rice crops in irrigated and rain-fed areas.

Gov. Niel Tupas Sr. said the cloud seeding would prevent crop losses in rice-producing towns in the central part of the province.

The DA regional office said it would study the proposal before recommending any rainmaking operations.

Nachito Baylon, agriculture assistant regional director, said the cloud seeding might benefit rice farming but could destroy summer crops like mangoes, mongo beans and watermelons.

"The rain clouds might drift to Guimaras where many farmers have chemically induced their mango trees to bear fruits," said Baylon.

In anticipation of good weather, mango growers in Guimaras and in southern Iloilo towns have already sprayed their trees with chemicals. The rain, Baylon said, would destroy the flowers of mango trees.

Samuel Japitana, division manager of the National Irrigation Authority (NIA), agreed with the cloud seeding operations to save crops in rain-fed areas in southern and central Iloilo.

But he said the three major irrigation systems of Suage River in Janiuay town, the Aganan River in Alimodian town, and the Sibalom River in Tigbauan town could hardly serve the needs of even about 30 percent of the crop area.

The Jalaur River is the only source that sustains the irrigation needs of rice farmers, but its water is being rationed.

All major irrigation systems in Iloilo are run-off river types that do not impound water.

Except for Jalaur, Japitana said the three irrigation systems are either dry or have too little water to divert to farms during the dry months.

Provincial agriculturist Inocencio Parian said wilting rice crops have been reported in the towns of Dumangas and Barotac Nuevo, which are at the tail end of the irrigation systems.

Of the 49 towns, only the southern town of San Joaquin had reported a damage of 3.5 hectares of cropland due to the lack of irrigation.

Parian said the dry spell would affect at least five percent of rice crops in the second cropping season from October to February. The first cropping season is from May to September.

Iloilo has some 140,000 hectares of rice-growing areas producing at least 1.2 metric tons of rice yearly.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 04-2002

TO : ALL EXECUTIVE JUDGES AND JUDGES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS, METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS

SUBJECT : SPECIAL TREATMENT OF MINOR DETAINEES AND JAIL DECONGESTION

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution affirms the duty of the State to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth (Sec. 13, Art. II, 1987 Constitution);

WHEREAS, it has long been recognized that youthful offenders should be afforded special treatment in our judicial system;

WHEREAS, the situation of jails in cities and other highly populous areas in the country is very pathetic;

WHEREAS, an immediate solution is necessary in order to protect the interest and rights of prisoners, especially minor detainees, and to eradicate or at least minimize the congestion of jails in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby directed that the following guidelines be observed:

1. Effective immediately, trial judges shall hold regular dialogues, conferences, or visitations, in coordination with appropriate government agencies as well as the local chief executives, jail wardens, chiefs of police and officials from social welfare office, at least once a month with the inmates in all jails in their respective territorial jurisdiction.
2. Said dialogues, conferences, or visitations shall be for the following purposes:
   a. To determine the sufficiency or manner of safekeeping and reformation of prisoners, especially minor detainees, as well as their proper accommodation and health;
   b. To set limits to the number of detainees in jail, and provide for the segregation of minors from the adult prisoners;
   c. To identify minor prisoners who are willing to plead guilty, if qualified, and to inform them of the benefits granted by the provisions of P.D. No. 603 on suspended sentence of minors; and
   d. To order the release from detention of any accused who is already entitled to be released under the last paragraph of Article 29 of the Revised Penal Code, or who has already served his sentence, as the case may be, unless the release is unwarranted by reason of any lawful ground or cause;
3. Strict compliance with the provisions of R.A. No. 8369 (An Act Establishing Family Courts) and its implementing guidelines is hereby enjoined.
4. Trial judges designated in the Family Courts shall endeavor to assign specific days for the trial of cases involving minor offenders to the exclusion of criminal cases against adult offenders.

A periodic report of such dialogues, conferences, or visitations should be submitted to the Court Administrator.

The Court Administrator shall implement this Administrative Circular.

This Administrative Circular shall take effect on 15 February 2002 and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation before 10 February 2002.

Issued this first day of February 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

To : All Taxpayers, Printers, Paper Millers/Importers, and Paper Dealers

Subject: Presentation of Proposed Invoicing System

To simplify the procedures in the issuance of Authority to Print [ATP] official receipts and invoices [OR/SI] as well as institute security features on OR/SI, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has formulated new procedures for the Invoicing System.

In this regard, we would like to discuss with you our proposal to improve and streamline the processing of ATPs, among others.Hereunder is the schedule of presentations.

Date	Time	Venue
February 11, 2002	1:00 p.m.	Grand Menseng Hotel Davao City
February 12, 2002	1:00 p.m.	4th Floor, Conference Hall SM-Cebu City
March 01, 2002	1:00 p.m.	Officers' Club, Phil. Air Force Clark Field, Pampanga
March 06, 2002	8:30 a.m.	National Training Center BIR National Office Diliman, Quezon City

For more information, please contact:

Lucita G. Rodriguez
Assistant Commissioner
Taxpayer Assistance Service
Tel. No. 921-43-24/928-41-99

Director Nestor S. Valeroso
Regional Director
BIR Region 5, Valenzuela City
292-00-95/291-86-37

Inquirer-Feb. 8, 2002

Cops target sellers of AFP, PNP uniforms

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Difficult times are ahead for this town's multimillion-peso business of selling military and police uniforms and paraphernalia.

Sales are expected to dip as Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, vowed to control the illegal use of military and police uniforms by civilians, including communist rebels.

Berroya, in a memorandum issued "for strict compliance" on Wednesday, said "crimes had been perpetrated easily with the illegal use of the uniform and insignia."

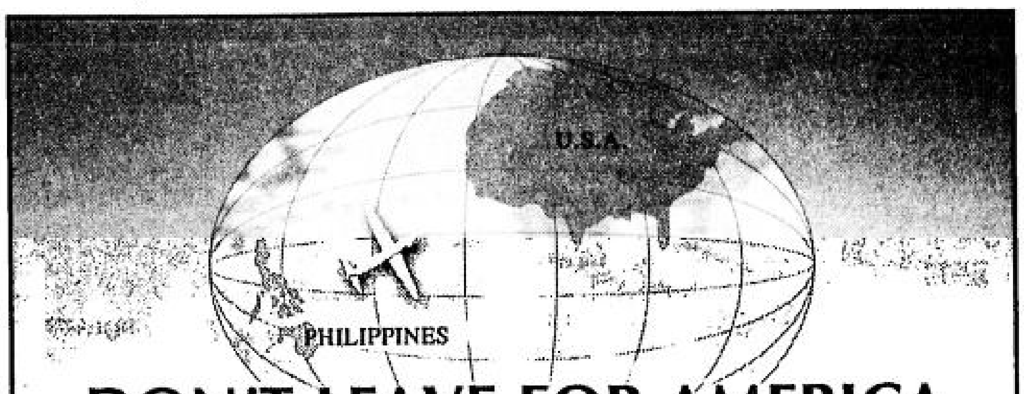
However, he did not warn of closure or identified the forms by which the business would be regulated.

About 30 stores in Barangay Dau here are targets of the regulation. The materials can easily be bought here as these are remnants of the once thriving haven of PX or imported goods smuggled out of Clark from the 1960s to 1991 when the former US military air base was closed.

The stalls used to sell second-hand United States Air Force uniforms and paraphernalia. But the goods were replaced by locally made products, reportedly coming from "dubious sources."

The stall owners, most of them possessing business permits from the municipal government, declined to disclose their suppliers or buyers.

They also did not say if the materials were illegally taken from the inventory of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police.



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CODE-NGO bonds: Merit, not connections

SOLIMAN explains CODE-NGO's P1.4-B financial coup.

CORRO C. REYES
CODE-NGO

WAS it a "sweetheart" deal between the government and the CODE-NGO? Hearings at the Senate continue to probe the key players. From left, Danilo Songco, CODE-NGO national coordinator, Marissa Reyes, its chair and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

From page A1

investors' interest in the auction of the zero-coupon bonds, also know as Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates (Peace) bonds.

"The fact that many banks bid (for the Peace Bonds) proved that there was no rigging. *Dapat*, only five or 10 banks showed up. But more than 15 showed up. *Maraming nakakaalam* (many investors knew of the auction, therefore)," said Paragas, also a board member of CODE-NGO.

CODE-NGO conceptualized the flotation of the Peace bonds to raise at least P1-billion in endowment fund to support poverty alleviation projects.

Piraguas said RCBC Capital, underwriter of CODE-NGO, conducted a thorough study of the possible revenues from poverty-alleviation projects.

"It even took us a year to process the bid. If Camacho was intervening, we could have finished this in three months," she said.

Used

Paragas said the NGO community felt "used" by the political opposition to derail the confirmation of Camacho by the Commission on Appointments.

'(Egos) feel we are being used to attack Camacho.

But even if we feel this is all unfair, we cannot go to his defense, in terms of his confirmation. We all have our individual compassion for the finance secretary, and we can help in that capacity. But we must insist that CODE-NGO (transacted with the Peace bonds) and did not really involve ourselves with Camacho. We do not want to make this problem any bigger," she said.

A memorandum that Camacho sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo last year could prove that all the transactions involving the bonds were legitimate, according to CODE-NGO.

The group expressed the hope that in the end it would be vindicated from all the accusations hurled against it.

One of the Peace bond's staunchest critics, Sen. John Osmeña, accused Reyes-Camacho of dropping the name of her brother in order to fast tract the deal.

In a letter dated Aug. 9, 2001 addressed to the Bangko Sentral, Camacho-Reyes said her group had discussed the bonds with the Bureau of Treasury in a meeting "hosted no less than Secretary Camacho himself."

But in a statement yesterday, CODE-NGO pointed out that Camacho had restrained himself from having a hand in the issuance of the bonds out of delicadeza.

To prove it, CODE-NGO attached a memorandum that Camacho sent the President on Sept. 5, 2001 where the finance secretary asked that he be allowed to inhibit himself from transactions on the bonds because his sister headed the group that would benefit from it.

"Because of this, I would like to request Her Excellency's permission to allow me to inhibit myself from having to make any decision, approve or sign the proposed debt issue," Camacho said in his memorandum.

He then recommended that all decisions pertinent to the bonds be approved by the Office of the President.

While admitting that they asked Camacho to host a lunch meeting with National Treasurer Sergio Edeza, CODE-NGO National Coordinator Danilo Songco stressed that the finance secretary "excused himself from the discussions."

"We ask the public and our detractors to believe . . . (that) what we are really trying to do is help the poor who could never dream of ever buying this or any bond offering in their lifetime," Songco said.

Release funds now

As the controversy rages, NGOs based in Baguio are Camacho-Reyes to start piping out their P1.3 profit from the bonds to vital poverty-alleviation projects "instead of answering fictional charges."

Ma. Rosary Lopez, executive director of the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. (JVOFI), said 10 pro-poor projects had already been approved by the newly formed Peace Foundation, which holds the bulk of CODE-NGO's commission from the purchase of the P35-billion zero-coupon bonds in October last year.

JVOFI is part of the Association of Foundations, one of CODE-NGO's network members cited by Soliman as having sufficient track record in administering pro-poor projects.

"They are expending energies on (Senators Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta) and their fictional charges, when all we need to do is show the world we were right by implementing these projects," Lopez told the Inquirer.

Forthright

She said Soliman presented a forthright account in the Wednesday edition of the Inquirer about the travails of NGOs working for social welfare programs.

Soliman said development assistance to social welfare projects from overseas and domestic donors had dwindled dramatically, and that only a small pool of funds was available to welfare-oriented NGOs.

"Dwindling donor support to NGOs in the Asian region has plagued Filipino organizations since 1997, a trend that began with the dispersal of the former United Soviet Socialist Republics and which continued with the United Nations-led restructuring of East Timor," Lopez said in Filipino.

She said it was a trend reported in several World Bank and Asian Development Bank documents, which constantly alerted Filipino NGOs to the condition of international development assistance funds.

"The nature of social welfare projects here are education-related or health-related, and these projects do not pay for themselves. Funding agencies now are geared for advocacies, but these rarely address poverty issues," Paragas said.

Piraguas said the fund drought revealed by Soliman on Wednesday had been the "NGO environment for decades."

"We have been encouraging . . . no, demanding, that NGOs avoid relying on international grants and donors because there are (few in existence today).

That trend was predicted by the US-based Fund Raising Group and we have known this truth for sometime now. (The Peace bond transaction) was exactly one way of securing poverty-alleviation loans, thanks to the responsiveness of (the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., which capitalized) the purchase of the bonds," Paragas said. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Ailing teener makes . . .

From page A1

Chanes, who spoke Visayan just as well as Tagalog, serenaded the President with a Cebuano folk song, "Bulan (Moon)."

The Victorianos were accompanied to Malacañang by members of the Kythe Inc., a nongovernment organization responsible for the psychosocial care of pediatric cancer patients.

Wish list

Chanes earlier submitted a wish list to the Make A Wish Foundation and included in it is a desire to meet the President.

"It's perfect because they said you played basketball," the President said in Filipino while handing him the box of Adidas rubber shoes.

The Victorianos, who hail from Camotes Island in Cebu, have settled in Novaliches while Chanes went to school in Cebu City.

On learning that Chanes' father, who is a carpenter, has no regular job, the President immediately ordered her staff to get him to work as a carpenter in the engineering department of the Palace.

The Victorianos were profuse with gratitude.

According to Doctors Ma. Victoria Abesamis and Ramon Severino of the Pediatric Oncology Department of the East Avenue Medical Center, Chanes has been given four treatments of palliative chemotherapy.

According to the doctors, a football-size tumor in the boy's lower abdomen has shrunk and that his body has been responding well to treatments.

Camacho back from US, denies . . .

From page A1

the international community," Tiglao said.

He furnished reporters a copy of a letter from Camacho to the President dated Sept. 5, 2001, which said that Camacho was inhibiting himself from deciding on the transaction.

The presidential spokesperson said CODE-NGO began to work out the details of the deal even before Camacho knew that he would assume the finance portfolio.

Opposition issue

Tiglao said Sen. John Osmeña and Tessie Aquino-Oreta wanted to pin down Camacho in the zero-coupon bond controversy to get back at the President.

"What's worrying us about this issue is that the opposition has made this its issue of the day," he said.

"It's another issue that will fall flat on their faces, This is their third try," Tiglao said. He said the two previous attempts by the opposition to link the administration to corruption were the alleged misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds during last year's senatorial elections and payoffs to the First Gentleman by a telecommunication company.

"It's quite sad for the Senators Osmeña and Oreta to be obsessed with blocking the appointment of Secretary Camacho," Tiglao said.

Still smiling

Asked whether he was demoralized by insinuations that he used his influence to favor CODE-NGO in the auction of the bonds, Camacho said, "I am still smiling." But he looked very serious and worn-out.

Camacho said, "he was not sure if friendly connections" were used by his sister, Ma. Socorro "Marissa" Camacho-Reyes, when the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Insurance Commission granted her request that the Peace bonds be given reserve eligibility.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue also exempted the transaction from the 20-percent withholding tax.

The reserve eligibility and tax exemptions were "sweeteners" that made the 10-year zero-coupon bonds attractive to investors.

"I don't know if CODE-NGO knew (BSP Governor Rafael) Buenaventura or (BIR Commissioner Rene) Bañez. But as far as I am concerned, I did what was expected of me, which was to inhibit myself from the transaction because of *delicadeza*," the finance secretary said.

Camacho maintained that he had inhibited himself despite allegations that an Aug. 9, 2001 letter of his sister Marissa to the BSP showed otherwise.

In the letter, Camacho-Reyes spoke of a meeting with the Bureau of Treasury "hosted by no less than Secretary Camacho himself."

A mistake

Camacho-Reyes, during a dialogue with the Inquirer Wednesday night, admitted that it was a mistake to have dropped the name of his brother.

The finance secretary maintained that CODE-NGO had neither engaged in influence peddling nor committed any irregularities in connection with the issuance of the zero-coupon bonds.

Camacho said he supported CODE-NGO's project of raising an endowment fund for poverty alleviation projects.

"But the matter of the endowment generated by CODE-NGO is between them and RCBC," he said.

Tiglao pointed out that CODE-NGO would use the profit for pro-poor programs.

"If another bank won, they would have used (the money) for their own private needs," he said.

"What's really sad here is for reasons we cannot fathom, the use of these funds could be stopped if these wild accusations get any credibility at all," he said.

Lack of appreciation

Camacho said many of the concerns stemmed from "a lack of appreciation of a very technical debt instrument."

For instance, the foregone revenue as a result of the tax exemption was offset by the lower cost of borrowing that the government had obtained.

Had bidders factored in the 20-percent withholding tax, the rate that they would have offered the government would be about 13.54 percent as against the 12.75 percent that the government obtained from the bidding.

Camacho also denied that the bidding was rigged in favor of RCBC or that the Bureau of Treasury had provided inadequate notice and timely information to other bidders.

Tiglao said it was not possible for Camacho to have conspired with CODE-NGO to corner the bonds.

"The simplest way of looking at it is (the Peace bonds) were bid out" so CODE-NGO was not assured it would win, Tiglao said.

"It involved 15 banks including five foreign banks. If there was any anomaly at all you would have heard from at least one of the banks complaining because of the huge amount involved," he said.

The presidential spokesperson said he had no problem with the conduct of the investigation of the Senate finance committee, which Osmeña chairs.

"The conduct I would say is very fair and very intelligent. The problem there is some senators issue statements after the hearing and this is what gets full play in the media," he complained.

At the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged Camacho to take a leave of absence while the Senate committee on finance was investigating the bidding of the zero-coupon bonds.

Pimentel said the charges against Camacho were "very serious."

"In fairness to the President and to himself, he should take a leave of absence," Pimentel said. "Or out of *delicadeza*, he should resign." ***With a report from Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

New basic curriculum begins in June—Roco

From page A1

will no longer be taught separate courses on Social Studies, Home Economics and Practical Arts when they return to school this June.

Instead, these subjects will be integrated in one learning area called "Makabayan."

Roco disclosed that the change in the teaching system is incorporated into the new 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) to be implemented in the next school year.

"The new curriculum would be adopted next school year. In fact, this is already being done in some of the country's leading private schools," Roco said.

Makabayan

He explained that under the new curriculum, "basic tool subjects" like English, Math, Science and Filipino would be given an hour each in every seven-hour school day. The human development courses under "Makabayan" would be given three hours daily.

"This can't be put off any more. We have already been lagging behind education. We should have implemented this last year," Roco said.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers, however, remains unconvinced.

"The BEC will sacrifice the education of the youth, who will become cheap skilled laborers in the world market instead of productive Filipinos with a strong sense of history, culture; arts and all-around skills," said Dr. Carol Almeda, ACT chair.

"This is nothing more than a ruthless cost-cutting and streamlining measure at the behest of the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank," Almeda said.

Among the subjects that would be scrapped from the elementary school curriculum and integrated into the new learning area are Social Studies, Technology, Home Economics and Practical Arts; Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health; Geography, History, Civics, Culture and Values Education.

"Under the new curriculum, we would have five learning areas. These would be English, Filipino, Math, Science and Makabayan. Nothing would be changed. The books would still be the same," Roco told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Roco belied claims by militant groups that integrating the human development courses into "Makabayan" would result in less emphasis on subjects like history and culture.

"For instance, in an English reading class we would have the 'Sermon on the Mount' taught (for reading proficiency or grammar). We could have the Values Education teacher present to discuss the good values one could derive from the piece," Roco said.

This, he said, would be on top of the three hours that would be allotted for the Makabayan learning area.

"In teaching Math, one could also teach the values of being accurate or honest," the education secretary added.

No pilot tests

The ACT decried the fact that the curriculum would push through in June even without the benefit of pilot tests in the country's public school system.

The ACT and other militant educators' and student organizations believe that the new curriculum was created on the premise that there will be little or no increase in education expenditures in the next 10 years.

The same view has been adopted by the Manila Public School Teachers' Association and the Quezon City Public School Teachers Association, and the National Union of Students in the Philippines.

Suspended

"We believe that the last-minute cancellation of the media briefing and the suspension of Director Alice Panares of the National Educators' Academy of the Philippines is typical of the undemocratic manner that the DepEd is being run," said ACT vice chair Benjie Valbuena.

The ACT accused Roco of keeping the specifics of the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum from the education sector's primary stakeholders, who include parents, teachers and pupils.

Raymond Villanueva, spokesperson of the ACT, said Roco suspended Panares for alleged "insubordination."

Villanueva said Panares was penalized for scheduling the media presentation of the new curriculum without prior clearance from Roco.

For that reason, Roco confirmed that he had suspended Panares.

The secretary added that Panares should have informed the education officials in the other regions about the proposed media presentation before going through with it.

Phone pills, phone pols, phone perils

From page A1

"contraception service," warning them via mobile telephone text message to abstain from sex when they are most fertile.

The service is activated by completing a series of questions on the One-2-One company's website. Each month, the company will send three text messages to customers' mobile phones, warning them they will soon ovulate and telling them which days they will be most fertile.

Some 50 women have signed up for the service so far, which can also be used by those who want to increase their chances of becoming pregnant, according to the daily Super Express.

Political texts

In Paris, gray-haired French presidential candidate Jean-Pierre Chevenement is trying to win over young voters by condensing his policies to 160 characters in text messages to mobile phone users.

Chevenement, who hopes to be a spoiler candidate in April's election, has received thousands of text message questions written in truncated language, where proper spellings have no place, and has set about replying in equally brief terms.

"It's a difficult exercise in being concise," the left-wing politician said.

But he did not trouble himself with phone buttons, opting instead to dictate replies to an assistant who typed them on a computer to a network of mobile phone users.

"It's a little short. I am a bit frustrated. I came to have fun and to help my campaign," the 61-year-old said.

Cell phone safety

But then, are mobile phones safe in the first place?

The safety of cell phones seemed set to face new questions after British researchers found that microwave emissions could affect the health of earthworms in unexplained ways.

The scientists found that larvae of tiny soilworms called nematodes grew faster and became more fertile after they were exposed for a long time to weak microwave radiation which were of the same strength and frequency as that emitted by mobile phones.

Why this occurred is unclear, and there is no evidence that human health is also affected.

But, the researchers warn, the finding challenges the standards that determine whether a mobile phone is safe or not. These standards are based on whether the radiation is strong enough to cause a batch of tissue to warm up. Heat causes the chemical bonds in cells to break down, a disruption that can be a potential trigger for cancer.

Fast-growing worms

The research, led by David de Pomerai at Nottingham University in central England, said larvae exposed to the microwaves grew between 8 and 11 percent faster than those that had not been exposed.

In addition, the proportion of worms that matured into egg-bearing adults was 28-40 percent higher.

By comparison, worms that had been exposed to mild heat suffered a 10-percent reduction in their growth rate, and virtually none developed into fertile adults.

The experiment is important because it suggests that microwaves might trigger biological effects without warming any tissues.

The scientists did not rule out the possibility that radiation could cause hot spots to occur somewhere in the worm that then affected cell processes.

The worry, though, is that the sole basis for determining mobile safety is whether microwaves cause heating in bulk tissue rather than just at locations in it, they note.

On Jan. 25, the British government launched a 7-million-pound ($10 million) research program into any health risks caused by mobile phones.

The British weekly New Scientist reports on the de Pomerai research in its issue on Saturday.

The National Radiological Protection Board said safety guidelines could not be changed "on the basis of one experiment," adding that the results had to be replicated elsewhere.

AFP and Reuters

What was borrowed should be returned.

1. PAL merely borrowed two of Cebu Pacific's frequencies to Korea but now wants to keep them permanently.

a) **December 19, 2001** - The Civil Aeronautics Board granted Cebu Pacific three weekly frequencies to Korea. This was done after hearing out both PAL and Cebu Pacific and after due deliberation of all issues.

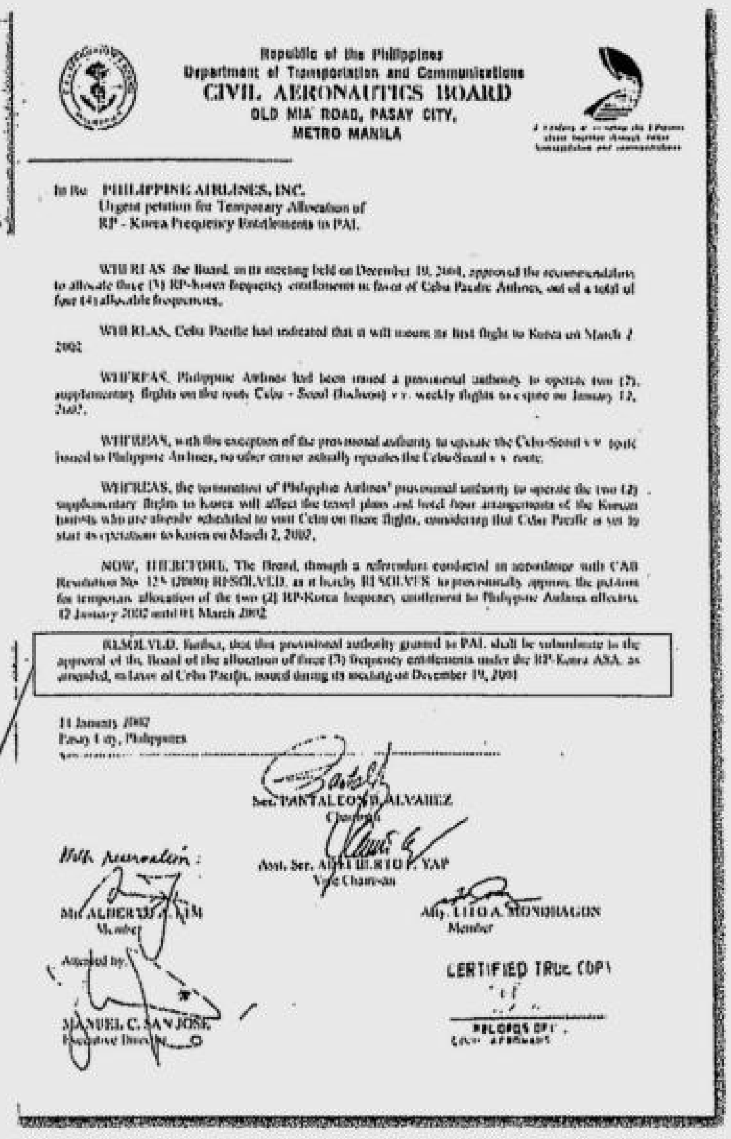
b) **January 9, 2002** – PAL asked CAB to reallocate to them two of the three frequencies already granted to Cebu Pacific. Cebu Pacific opposed this request.

c) **January 11, 2002** – PAL asked CAB to lend to it two of Cebu Pacific's frequencies specifically referring to a temporary allocation of RP-Korea entitlements. This request was granted by the CAB.

The CAB resolution granting PAL's request reiterated the temporary nature of the grant and confirmed Cebu Pacific's ownership of the frequencies by its previous grant in the December 19 meeting:

> RESOLVED, further, that this provisional authority granted to PAL shall be subordinate to the approval of the Board of the allocation of three (3) frequency entitlements under the RP-Korea ASA, as amended, in favor of Cebu Pacific, issued during its meeting on December 19, 2001.

Immediately after CAB's approval, PAL started coming out in the media, saying it must permanently keep Cebu Pacific's frequencies for the sake of Cebu and its tourism industry.


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

In Re: PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC.
Urgent petition for Temporary Allocation of
RP - Korea Frequency Entitlements to PAL

WHEREAS the Board, in its meeting held on December 19, 2001, approved the recommendation to allocate three (3) RP-Korea frequency entitlements in favor of Cebu Pacific Airlines, out of a total of four (4) allocable frequencies.

WHEREAS, Cebu Pacific had indicated that it will mount its first flight to Korea on March 2, 2002.

WHEREAS, Philippine Airlines had been issued a provisional authority to operate two (2) supplementary flights on the route Cebu - Seoul (Incheon) v.v. weekly flights to expire on January 12, 2002.

WHEREAS, with the exception of the provisional authority to operate the Cebu-Seoul v.v. route issued to Philippine Airlines, no other carrier actually operates the Cebu-Seoul v.v. route.

WHEREAS, the termination of Philippine Airlines' provisional authority to operate the two (2) supplementary flights to Korea will affect the travel plans and hotel/tour arrangements of the Korean tourists who are already scheduled to visit Cebu on these flights, considering that Cebu Pacific is yet to start its operations to Korea on March 2, 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board, through a referendum conducted in accordance with CAB Resolution No. 125 (2000) RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES to provisionally approve the petition for temporary allocation of the two (2) RP-Korea frequency entitlement to Philippine Airlines effective 12 January 2002 until 01 March 2002.

RESOLVED, further, that this provisional authority granted to PAL shall be subordinate to the approval of the Board of the allocation of three (3) frequency entitlements under the RP-Korea ASA, as amended, in favor of Cebu Pacific, issued during its meeting on December 19, 2001.

11 January 2002
Pasay City, Philippines

Sec. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Chairman

With reservation:

Asst. Sec. [illegible] YAP
Vice Chairman

Mr. ALBERTO [illegible] LIM
Member

Atty. LITO A. MONDRAGON
Member

Attested by:

MANUEL C. SAN JOSE
Executive Director

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

2. PAL will have 15 weekly frequencies against only one for Cebu Pacific.

If PAL is allowed to keep the frequencies it only borrowed, it would be able to fly to Korea 15 times a week; Cebu Pacific would have only a once-a-week service, meaning its passengers would have to wait the next week to fly back home. A 15:1 ratio guarantees that Cebu Pacific will not be able to compete against PAL. That means there will be no real competition to serve the public.

3. Real competition will bring better service and lower fares.

When it introduced its domestic service in 1996, Cebu Pacific pioneered low fares and brought on-time service. It also introduced low fares when it started flying to Hong Kong last November. PAL followed Cebu Pacific's lead. Cebu Pacific will also bring real competition to the Korean route.

4. Cebu Pacific serves and will add more services to Cebu.

Cebu Pacific flies the most number of flights from Cebu to Mindanao and other points in the Visayas, making intra-regional travel convenient for tourists and locals. Cebu Pacific flies 96 weekly domestic flights out of Cebu, connecting its namesake not only to Manila but to Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, and Zamboanga. And last October 2001 it started an exclusive pioneering service between Cebu and Clark. PAL has only 78 flights per week out of Cebu.

On the international front, Cebu Pacific will start twice-weekly Cebu - Korea charters on February 9, 2002. When it gets the 4th frequency Cebu Pacific will mount scheduled flights on the same route but Cebu Pacific will use its own frequencies and not somebody else's.

5. PAL flies Manila-Korea 11 times weekly and Cebu-Korea only twice weekly.

PAL says it must have Cebu Pacific's two frequencies to serve Cebu better. But of its total 13 frequency entitlements, PAL flies Manila-Korea 11 times weekly and only twice weekly from Cebu. If it really wants to add capacity on the Cebu-Korea route, it does not really require Cebu Pacific's entitlements because it can easily increase capacity by either shifting its Manila-originating flights to Cebu or using bigger aircraft which they have.

6. PAL objected to the additional frequencies in the first place.

In Korea, PAL said on record that it was objecting to the frequencies that had been agreed to. Now it wants to get these frequencies? On the other hand, Cebu Pacific pushed for negotiations with South Korea for the frequencies. And it should get only one of the three frequencies?

7. Two flag carriers will prevent a repeat of tourism's near collapse when PAL closed down.

In September 1998, PAL stopped operations because of a labor problem. The tourism industry in Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Iloilo – the whole of Visayas and Mindanao – virtually ground to a halt. Cebu Pacific is a Philippine Flag Carrier that can make sure there will be no repeat of that incident. It is in tourism's and the Philippines' interest to have at least two flag carriers.

We ask the public to be the judge.

We ask that EO 219 which calls for the liberalization of the air transport industry and the designation of at least two international flag carriers be upheld to promote an environment conducive to fair competition and more investments.

We ask for no special treatment, only fairness.

CEBU PACIFIC

US troops deployed but still no rules

From page A1

the TOR for the Philippine government, and that US Embassy *charge d'affaires* Robert Fitts would sign in Powell's behalf.

At the inquiry being conducted by the Senate committees on foreign relations and on national defense, Guingona said the President had approved the TOR in principle but that the American commanders here had expressed reservations over the matter of "authority" and "command."

Both the TOR and the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement provide that Filipino and US troops participating in Balikatan 02-1 will be headed by a Filipino commander. But Filipino authorities will be "supreme" because the Philippines will have responsibility over the actions of the commanders of the two forces, Guingona said.

He said that under the US Constitution, the US armed forces could not be put under the command of a foreign military commander.

Although the exercise formally began last week with a ceremony, actual training will not begin until the Americans approve the TOR, he said.

Sen. Blas Ople described Guingona's explanation on the TOR as "a fine legal formulation," but insisted on a fuller report.

Ople also said there were "no surprises" in Guingona's report because the Vice President merely reiterated the guidelines announced by Ms Macapagal before she left for her recently concluded three-nation swing.

Compromise

A compromise appeared to have been reached between the two sides in the description of the relationship of their armed forces for the duration of Balikatan 02-1.

As part of its eight-point policy level statement, the TOR read: "In no instance will US forces operate independently during field training exercises (FTX). Nothing shall infringe on the AFP unit commander's authority."

The TOR also said the exercise would be "under the direction" of the AFP chief of staff.

Palace sources earlier revealed a conflict between the two sides, with the Philippines wanting it said explicitly that US troops would be put under the "authority" of Filipino commanders, and the US seeking the use of the less encompassing word "command."

The same sources yesterday said that under a previous draft, the TOR had explicitly stated that US troops would be under the authority of local officers.

On the exercise level, the TOR provided: "US exercise forces at all levels shall comply with the operational instructions of the AFP unit commander, and at no instance shall they operate independently within RP territory."

"Exercise command structure shall provide for the separate RP-US components under the overall supervision of the AFP unit commander who shall make operational decisions at all times," the TOR said.

The document described Balikatan 02-1 as "a counter-terrorism training relative to Philippine efforts against the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) and will be conducted in the island of Basilan."

It cited "related training" and "related activities" in Zamboanga and Cebu, respectively.

It said the conduct of the exercise "is consistent with Philippine and US obligations under pertinent United Nations resolutions against global terrorism as understood by the respective parties."

No permanent basing

The TOR said "no permanent US basing and support facilities shall be established."

It said 660 American soldiers and 3,800 Filipino soldiers would participate in the exercise.

"Only 160 US troops organized in 12-man Special Forces Teams shall be deployed in Basilan," it said. "The US teams shall remain at the Company Tactical Headquarters where they can observe and assess the performance of the troops."

The TOR also said "US exercise participants shall not engage in combat operations, without prejudice to their right of self-defense."

While Balikatan 02-1 was previously billed as an exercise where US advisers will train Philippine troops, the TOR indicated a reciprocal arrangement.

"Exercise shall involve only the conduct of military training of RP and US forces with the primary objective of enhancing the operational capabilities of both forces," it said.

The document said RP and US forces might share in the use of their resources, equipment and other assets, while "medical evacuation shall be jointly planned and executed."

It said the flight plans of all aircraft involved in the exercise should comply with local air traffic regulations.

The TOR provided that human rights violations committed by Filipino or American troops would be "severely sanctioned" by Human Rights Action Centers supervised by the Department of Justice in areas of the exercise.

It called for the establishment of "combined information bureaus" at Camp Aguinaldo and the AFP's Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City.

"Socioeconomic assistance projects shall be planned and executed jointly by RP and US forces in consultation with the community and local government officials," it said.

Endorsement

The TOR was endorsed to Guingona and Powell in a covering letter that Villanueva and Blair had supposedly approved.

The covering letter said that Balikatan 02-1 would be "implemented" under the VFA, and that "its purposes are to exercise the joint-combined forces and to enhance cooperation and the capability of the AFP and US Pacific Command in combating terrorism/transnational crimes."

The letter also said the exercise "implements the agreements" reached by Ms Macapagal and US President George W. Bush "to maintain a robust defense partnership against terrorism through increased training, exercises and other joint activities."

'One-sided arrangement'

But militant peasant and fisher folk groups continued to protest the conduct of Balikatan 02-1 and urged Congress to determine whether the TOR "might be another onerous and one-sided arrangement" that would give US troops immunity from Philippine laws.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), called on Congress to subject the TOR to a plenary debate and to conduct public hearings "so that it would not escape the public eye."

The KMP, Nnara-Youth, and the fisher folk group Pamalakaya held a "flotilla protest" yesterday morning at the Manila Bay near the US Embassy.

"All US personnel and institutions in the country, like the US Embassy and the former Clark and Subic military bases, have enjoyed immunity from Philippine laws," Mariano said. "US troops had evaded their numerous crimes and other human rights abuses against the Filipino people and made a mockery of our judiciary and other democratic institutions."

The protestors set off rafts made from banana trunks and bearing the slogans "US Imperialist, No. 1 Terrorist," "Uphold the People's Sovereign Rights," "Junk Balikatan 02-1," "GMA, US puppet, No to US troops and Yes to National Sovereignty," and "No to US War of Aggression."

Compensation

Asked by Honasan at the Senate hearing whether the Philippine government was giving up something and getting something in return, Guingona said the country was not giving up sovereignty and integrity.

He said the practical compensation would be in the form of US aid and investments, which would be used to rebuild ravaged areas in Mindanao.

Defense Secretary Reyes said the long-term intention of Balikatan 02-1 was to give Filipino soldiers the much-needed training and improve their capabilities.

"We are not in a very ideal situation," he said. "The threat of terror is here. We have to accelerate the conduct of this exercise. As I said, the policy decision was made late November, so we are constrained by time and we are catching up."

Honasan pointed out that Philippine troops needed more equipment, not training, because they were among the more experienced ground forces in Asia.

But Guingona said that the Americans were not leaving behind any equipment after Balikatan 02-1, and that "we do not want to be mendicants."

Asked about his differences with the President on the issue, Guingona said these were "honest differences" that had been worked out.

"All's well that ends well," said the Vice President, who had earlier questioned the constitutionality of the military exercise. "We have already threshed out the differences. She gave me the terms of reference so I could be given precisely the opportunity to enter my inputs subject to her approval."

Ople said the inquiry was to have ended yesterday but that the reservations aired by the US government on the question of authority required another hearing.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the US government's reservations put in doubt the status of the military exercise and made it difficult for the two panels to submit a complete report on the issue.

Challenge

Catholic and Protestant leaders belonging to the newly formed multi-faith group Cry Out Now! challenged Guingona to "stand firm" on his "principles against the US interventionist troops" and not sign the TOR.

They also called for an immediate pullout of US troops and a thorough investigation of the alleged "collusion" between military officials and the Abu Sayyaf.

But in a statement printed in a newsletter of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo asserted the group's position supporting US military assistance in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

"The bishops are more than aware—they are very concerned—about the sufferings of their flock in the ecclesiastical jurisdictions affected by the kidnappings and murders," Quevedo said. "They totally support their expressed wishes for justice and decisive resolution of the ASG problem."

Quevedo also said that while the CBCP would not comment on the issue of "constitutionality and legality" because this was beyond its expertise, the "moral issue" was what the bishops were concerned about. ***With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Armand N. Nocum***

Yellow ribbons up for Burnhams . . .

From page A1

ter arrived from the captives, and their relatives in Kansas are anxious to see a letter reportedly from them that surfaced Wednesday in the Philippine media.

Martin's sister Felicia Reschke said the family would not make any statements regarding the letter, supposedly dated Jan. 26 and brought from Basilan to Zamboanga City in the Philippines, until they got a handwritten copy and could tell whether it was authentic.

She said Gracia's sister, Mary Jones, had not received a copy of the letter that was reportedly addressed to her, and neither had anyone else in the family.

"This was the most recent . . . we are really interested in getting a copy," Reschke said.

The supposed letter from the Burnhams quoted them as saying that the Abu Sayyaf was willing to accept ransom in exchange for their freedom, and that they feared dying in a military rescue.

The Burnhams also addressed their children—Jeff, Mindy and Zach—saying they prayed to be home soon.

In Manila, the spokesperson of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Philippine military was "confident" the Burnhams were still being held hostage in Basilan.

Citing a military intelligence report issued last week, Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters that the Burnhams were being held by 45 Abu Sayyaf gunmen and were "on the move."

"Of course," Tiglao said when asked whether the two Americans were still alive.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in a radio interview that there was "no official confirmation" of reports that the Burnhams were released earlier this week after payment of $2 million in ransom.

"Whatever developments there are would be announced by (the Armed Forces' Southern Command)," Golez said.

Absolute priority

The newly confirmed US ambassador to the Philippines, Francis Ricciardone, said on Wednesday that he would travel to Manila next week to get involved in the rescue effort for the Burnhams.

"I'm not even going to take the time to pack out my house," Ricciardone told reporters in a telephone conference call with Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas. "My concern for the Burnhams is of absolute priority."

The US government has linked the Abu Sayyaf to Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, alleged masterminds of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

US troops are to be deployed in Basilan later this month under the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 to train Filipino soldiers in fighting the Abu Sayyaf, marking the most significant expansion of America's global war against terror after Afghanistan.

The exercise, which has met with vehement opposition from various sectors in the Philippines, will involve 660 US soldiers, including 160 from the Special Forces.

"We believe this kidnapping will be resolved with a two-prong approach: military pressure brought on the (Abu Sayyaf) to bring them to a dialogue . . . so we can get (the Burnhams) released through humanitarian reasons," Scott Ross, lawyer for the Florida-based New Tribes Mission, said Wednesday.

Letters, pictures

Ross said the kidnapped missionaries had sporadically communicated with their family in Kansas.

He said the Burnhams had received letters and pictures of their children from Kansas, along with at least some of the medical supplies and food sent to them.

Ross declined to say how the New Tribes Mission was getting the family's letters and other supplies to the hostages.

Reschke declined to disclose the contents of previous letters other than to say that these contained personal matters. The letters also confirmed that the couple had received some of the gifts, medicine and eyeglasses that the family sent.

In the earlier letters, the Burnhams told their family they were in high spirits and were encouraged and hopeful they would be home soon, Reschke said.

"For the last four months we have been told (the Abu Sayyaf was) totally surrounded and cordoned off, yet we see a reporter get in, we see some of the boxes delivered, we see rebels escaping," Ross said. "Those things just raise concerns for us."

Reschke said the Burnhams' children were doing well: "They have their good days, and they have their bad days."

Paul and Oreta Burnham, Martin's parents, attended a funeral of a family member Wednesday and were unavailable for comment.

In December, Paul Burnham told The Associated Press that he did not know how the New Tribes Mission was getting their letters and packages through to his son and daughter-in-law.

"They don't reveal it, and we don't ask," he said.

Two letters from the captives to their family were delivered by a Philippine source to the US Embassy in Manila several months ago, and another earlier letter may have been carried by the reporter who videotaped an interview with them last November, Ross said.

"I have to believe that if these guys are murderers and kidnappers that if a package comes through, many of the items disappear before they get to the Burnhams," Ross said. "At different times we have been assured some of the things have gotten through."

In the videotaped interview with the Burnhams, Martin was wearing a pair of glasses that appeared to be the same as those sent by the New Tribes Mission.

10 years

Yellow ribbons flutter from mango and pine trees lining the 3-hectare compound of the New Tribes Mission atop a hill in Barangay Darapidap in Nueva Vizcaya, where the Burnhams had lived along with other missionaries for the past 10 years.

Other yellow ribbons are tied to the doorknobs of the bungalow where the Burnhams lived with their three children and which mission employees have been tending in their absence. In a corner of the empty house stand the bicycles that the Burnhams often used in their missionary work in the remote villages of Nueva Vizcaya.

The ribbons were put up immediately after the Burnhams were abducted last May 27.

"We have been praying for them since their abduction. We will be having a big party for them when they arrive," a missionary couple who identified themselves as among the Burnhams' closest friends told the INQUIRER.

Mission employee Rudy Gapasin said the Burnhams flew to the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

A week after the kidnapping, the Burnhams' children were taken to Kansas by their grandmother. Gapasin said the children vowed not to come back until their parents had been freed.

The Burnhams started their missionary work with indigenous peoples, particularly the Bugkalot tribe, in upland Barangay New Gumiad in Dupax del Sur town.

For 10 years they traveled to the villages to help sick tribe members and to bring relief assistance, according to Bugkalot Simbi Malo.

"We hope they will be released soon so they can continue their missionary work for our tribe," Malo said. ***Reports from AP and Reuters; Ben Moses Ebreo and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carlito Pablo in Manila***

GMA orders PNP . . .

From page A1

bling block to Ms Macapagal's efforts to attract foreign investors and tourists.

"Root out terrorism, work with the international community. Return the reputation of Manila and the Philippines as a welcoming and safe place in which to live and do business," Ms Macapagal told the PNP officers and men.

She said the renewed anti-kidnapping drive would focus on two bandit groups: the Pentagon gang that is holding Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni and the Abu Sayyaf that is holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse.

"Let me make it clear: the police have primary responsibility over operations against the Pentagon gang, while the military has primary responsibility over operations against the Abu Sayyaf," the President said.

"I'm clearly drawing this line of authority and responsibility and with this I hope we shall push on until all these groups are fully neutralized and accounted for."

Following Ms Macapagal's announcement, PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said he would reorganize Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon and send more Special Action Forces members to deal with the Pentagon gang.

Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon handles kidnapping in Mindanao. Task Force Dragon, revived last December, handles kidnapping cases in Luzon and Visayas.

MILF hand

Kyamko, who is leading the pursuit of the kidnappers in Sarangani province, said the MILF hand in the kidnapping was deduced from information given by six Filipinos who were also seized Wednesday but later abandoned by the armed men.

Maj. Julieto Ando, a regional military spokesperson, warned that government troops would not hesitate to strike the MILF rebels despite the peace talks and a ceasefire agreement with the government.

"The MILF is behind this latest kidnapping and we are warning them, we will strike the kidnappers," Ando said.

A South Korean Embassy spokesperson told Agence France Presse that it was "closely cooperating" with the Philippine authorities on the matter.

The abduction took place as Jae and Belonio, accompanied by eight other Filipinos, went to a village in Saranggani in search of a supposed treasure of nickel bars.

Earlier reports blamed the Pentagon gang, a group of rogue MILF members, for the kidnapping but Kyamko said the freed hostages identified their lead captor as Salem Gogo, a regional commander of the MILF.

"This (information) is per the revelations of the recovered civilians. We are banking on the revelation on the allegations against Commander Salem," he said.

Confession

In General Santos City, Col. Nardo Balboa, spokesperson of the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade here, said a certain Abu Bandan, 36, of Barangay Malisbong, Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, was arrested Wednesday afternoon in connection with the kidnapping.

Balboa said the suspect admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the group that kidnapped Jae and Belonio.

"The eight-man group that kidnapped Jae and Belonio was led by Commander Salem Gogo of the MILF," Balboa said.

According to him, Bandan said that Commander Gogo belonged to the 204th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces Brigade under Commander Tigre Jakiri.

The MILF brigade operates in the hinterlands of South Cotabato, Saranggani and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, acknowledged that Commander Tigre headed the 204th Infantry Brigade but that the MILF had no military leader named Salem Gogo.

"We are investigating this incident to determine whether Commander Tigre has a hand in the kidnapping as the military alleged. But we would also like to make it clear that the investigation is not an admittance on our part that one of our leaders have sinned," Kabalu said.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, earlier warned MILF commanders not to engage in kidnapping. ***With reports by Aquiles Z. Zonio and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GMA extends Mendoza term

From page A1

56 on March 17, the compulsory retirement age for police officials.

The President justified her decision, saying this would not affect the career of those police officials standing next in line, including Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

"Ebdane is second in command, and he still has many years to serve the PNP. Even if I extend Mendoza's term by a few months, it will not jeopardize anyone's career path," she told reporters.

In the afternoon at the Palace, the President explained that Ebdane was "very, very young. He's retiring in December 2004. So, he's still very, very young."

On Wednesday, when asked about her plans for outgoing Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva, she replied that: "We don't want to encourage a culture of people overstaying in their position."

"The thing is, when they retire, they retire. It's very hard for me to look for jobs for everybody," she said.

Villanueva retired in September. But the President extended his stay for six months to look for a suitable replacement.

When reminded of her statement the day before, Ms Macapagal said she would not keep on extending retired officials.

"Remember I also extended Titus for six months? Because you can't keep extending and extending. That's why in Mendoza's (case), I'm saying it will be at most nine months," the President said.

Downplay

Mendoza tried to downplay Macapagal's remarks, saying "This is not a major issue. I serve at the pleasure of the President."

Overstaying generals was one of the major issues of the disgruntled elements of the Armed Forces against President Ferdinand Marcos during his 21-year tenure. The issue was one of the main reasons why the Reform the Armed Forces Movement rebelled against Marcos.

But a ranking police official, who asked not to be named, did not see history repeating itself but welcomed the President's move, saying that Mendoza had done a good job and had a "common touch" within the police organization.

He also pointed out that Mendoza had a full four-year term as PNP chief and was not affected by the compulsory retirement policy.

Mendoza was named to the post in January last year following a military-backed people's revolution that ousted President Joseph Estrada and swept Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal congratulated Mendoza over the Pulse Asia survey, released in the third quarter last year, showing a 30-percent net approval rating for the PNP and a 22-percent net approval rating for the PNP chief.

"But we must take this as a signal to aim higher in our goals. Public trust must be the prime mover of achievement," she added.

At another point, the President lauded Mendoza and Ebdane, who heads the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, for the arrest of some 230 members of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates last year.

"I commend your PNP chief General Mendoza and our anti-kidnapping task force chief General Ebdane for producing these results quietly and professionally," she said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

New pole vault mark set

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Pole vault world-record holder Svetlana Feofanova of Russia broke her own world record Wednesday, clearing 4.72 meters (15 feet, 5 3/4 inches) at the Globen Galan indoor track and field meet. The Russian improved the record she set Sunday by 1 centimeter (a quarter of an inch). Feofanova will get a 50,000 euro ($43,500) bonus for breaking a world record at the meet in Stockholm's 14,000-seat Globe Arena. **AP**

RP riders show might

JOHOR Baru, Malaysia—The Philippines sent five riders into the Top 10 of the Asian stage for its best showing by far in the Le Tour de Langkawi yesterday. Led by the second-place ride of Merculio Ramos, the Filipinos shone in the sixth lap to win the Asian category and shove leader Telekom All-Stars, the Japanese and the host Malaysians into the backseat, even for just a day.

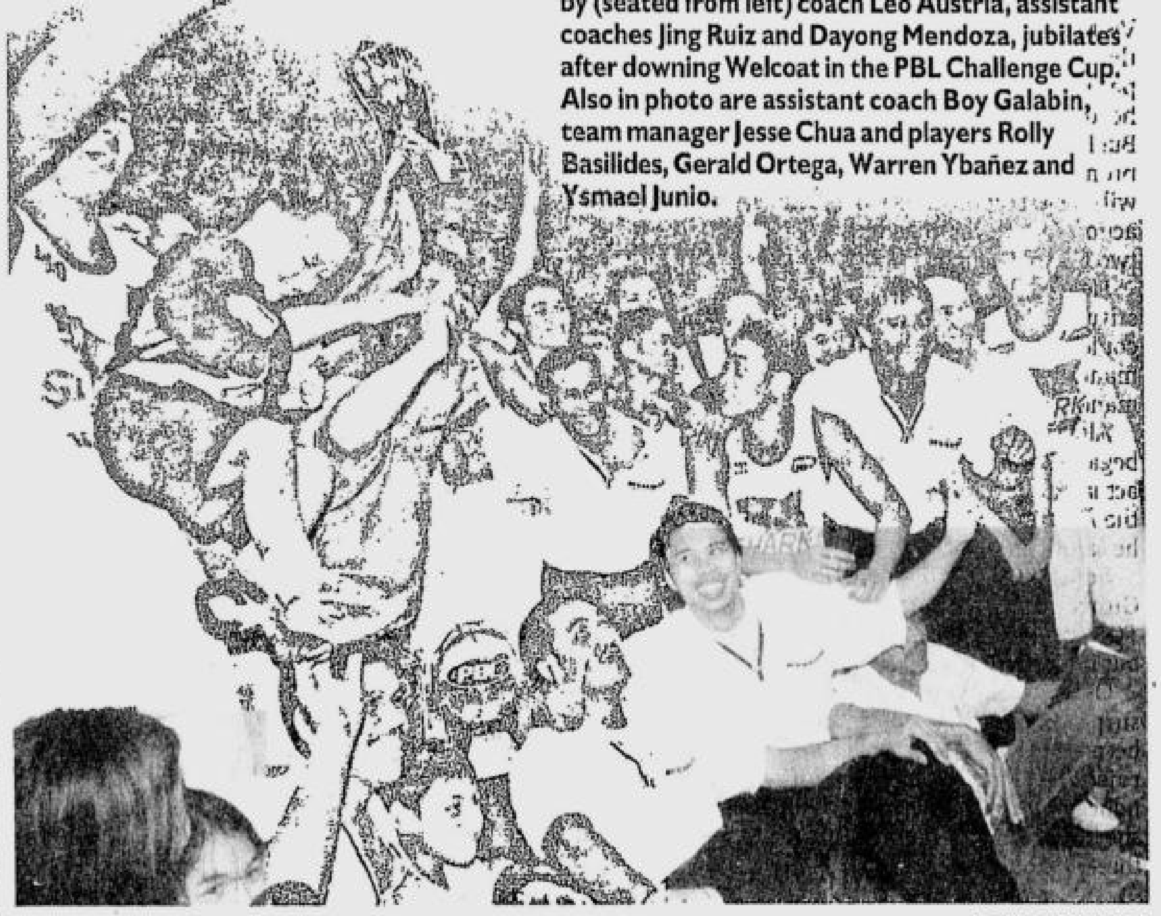
4-1 VICTORY

Shark retains PBL Challenge title

Ybañez named finals MVP

By Dennis U. Eroa

Best-of-seven: Shark 4-1
Game One:
Shark 80 Welcoat 79 (OT)
Game Two:
Shark 67 Welcoat 58
Game Three:
Shark 61 Welcoat 46
Game Four:
Welcoat 66 Shark 47
Game Five:
Shark 64 Welcoat 58 (OT)



THE VICTORIOUS Shark Energy Drink team, led by (seated from left) coach Leo Austria, assistant coaches Jing Ruiz and Dayong Mendoza, jubilates after downing Welcoat in the PBL Challenge Cup. Also in photo are assistant coach Boy Galabin, team manager Jesse Chua and players Rolly Basilides, Gerald Ortega, Warren Ybañez and Ysmael Junio.

ROMY HOMILLADA

SHARK Energy Drink escaped with a gut-wrenching 64-58 overtime victory over Welcoat Paints to keep its PBL Challenge Cup title before a jampacked crowd last night at the Makati Coliseum.

The Energy Drink Kings did not blink when confronted with defeat, repulsing the hard-fighting Paintmasters with an unerring display of free- throw shooting at crunchtime to put an exclamation mark to a campaign marked by numerous ups and downs.

Amid deafening roars, Shark gunner Chester Tolomia, reed-thin pivotman Rysal Castro and finals MVP Warren Ybañez signalled Welcoat's doom by gunning seven straight gift shots, 64-58, 26 seconds remaining in extra time, preventing what could have been a pivotal win by Welcoat.

Thus, the Energy Drink Kings of co-owners Dioceldo Sy and Raul Panlilio won the best-of-seven titular series, 4-1, proving that their triumph last year over the same mighty foes was no fluke.

"I kept my faith," said Shark mentor Leo Austria, a former PBA rookie of the year, after pocketing his second PBL title. "The players didn't lose their focus and stayed with the Shark system."

Despite playing minus head coach Junel Baculi, who was thrown out in the third quarter after incurring his second technical, Welcoat engaged Shark in a battle of attrition.

As Shark failed to cash in on their shots, Yancy de Ocampo and Ren Ren Ritualo kept Welcoat in the thick of the fight. The Paintmasters had the chance to extend the series when Ybañez missed badly, giving Baculi's charges one last chance at the basket, six ticks left and the score at 55-55..

Austria, however, wisely used his timeout to map out Shark's defense which resulted to De Ocampo being blocked underneath and Jojo Manalo launching a three-point attempt which fell short as the buzzer sounded.

But Welcoat was far from finished. Celino Cruz drilled in a three-pointer as the Paintmasters surged ahead, 58-57, but Manalo committed a boner as he fouled Tolomia in the three-point area, 1:40 remaining.

"I offer my congratulations to Shark," said Welcoat co-team owner Raymund Yu. He confirmed that Welcoat will take a leave of absence for two conferences before resuming its PBL campaign. Welcoat had won four titles in three years.

Baculi praised Austria for a job well done. "My hat's off to Leo," Baculi said.

Scores:

SHARK 64—Castro 20, Tolomia 11, Basilides 7, Sotto 7, Ybañez 6, Cole 6, Robinson 4, Ortega 2, Rodriguez 1.

WELCOAT 58—De Ocampo 18, Ritualo 18, Canlas 8, Cruz 6, Encarnacion 2, Manalo 2, Patrimonio 2, Tan 2, Orfrecio 0.

Quarters: 13-15, 27-27, 43-40, 55-55 (OT), 64-58

Nestle
BEAR BRAND
Kitefest 2002

FLIGHT UPDATES

THE BEST OF DUMAGUETE:		
ELEMENTARY DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Ramjay Divinagracia	Giant Flies
2nd Prize	Felipe Crusio	Angel
3rd Prize	Raphael Rubio	Baby Eagle
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Alvin Tano	Blue Butterfly
2nd Prize	Bryan Serad	The Smiling Sun
3rd Prize	Brian Valencia	Pikoy
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Richard Carza	Power Pop Girl
2nd Prize	Ian Arbon	Street Bomer
3rd Prize	Ryan Yecpot	Diamond
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Allen Villegas	Star Diamond Kite 2002
2nd Prize	Warlito Demaluna	Black Stallion
3rd Prize	Henry Belcina	Paddle Wheel
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Fredrick Balinas	Bruny Goliath
2nd Prize	Argie Payumo	Robot Butterfly
3rd Prize	Ryan Yecpot	Fish
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Benhur Teves	Superman
2nd Prize	Polly Llabas	Flying Anaconda
3rd Prize	Cris Rosales	3 Heads Dog
SARANGGOLA NI BEAR BRAND		
	Belcito Moreno	Diamond Kite
	Nonoy Payumo	Luzon Visayas Mindanao
SUPERKITE AWARD		
	Troy Antipolo	Unicorn

Watch out for BEAR BRAND Kitefest 2002!
Happening next at Cabanatuan City
on February 10, 2002.

Tanduay questions pro league

By June Navarro

TANDUAY yesterday questioned the PBA Commissioner's Office for honoring Bong Hawkins' three-year contract buyout demand even as Federal Express remained fixated on a P2.1-million buyout proposition.

In a five-page letter, Telesforo Cedo, Tanduay's alternate governor during its two-year stint in the PBA, protested that the league made the wrong move by accepting the demands of Hawkins.

The Commissioner's Office stood by the claim of Hawkins who was asking a three-year buyout of his contract, forcing FedEx, which absorbed the deal after buying Tanduay's PBA franchise, to cough up P4.5 million to cover the expenses.

Cedo said the Commissioner's Office erred on siding with Hawkins since the contract the player signed provided an exit clause after the 2002 PBA season.

It means Tanduay has the right to renegotiate with Hawkins after the season and has the privilege to rescind the contract should both parties fail to come to terms. Cedo said the PBA should have not cuddled Hawkins when he demanded a three-year buyout (2002-2004) instead of only a year.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino decided to grant Hawkins a three-year P4.5 million contract buyout, asking FedEx to pay P2.1 million out of its own pockets and P2.4 million stashed away from its equity in the league.

Adducul quits

By June Navarro

MBA standout Rommel Adducul yesterday bid his Asian Games aspirations goodbye after formally deciding to bolt out of the national training pool.

Bugged by problems concerning his status in the national team and the MBA, the 25-year-old Adducul opted to call it quits after days of thorough soul-searching in his native hometown of Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

The 6-foot-6 Adducul broke the news to PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino during a lengthy talk yesterday on the phone.

"We talked at length and I respect the decision of Rommel (Adducul). He just wished the Asian Games team good luck," said Bernardino,

In effect, Adducul, who skipped practice sessions in the training pool since Monday, won't be seeing action for RP Team Hapee in the PBA Governors Cup starting Sunday.

Message

My warmest greetings to all the officers and members of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) on your 32nd season! As the premier female amateur sports league in the country, I salute WNCAA for molding a generation of women whose athletic skills, willpower and drive for excellence have made them achievers with the limitless capacity to contribute to nation-building. Indeed, by celebrating 32 years of WNCAA's existence, we also celebrate 32 years of Female Power in Philippine Sports!

The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) fully supports WNCAA's thrust to empower more women to get involved in sports. The success of professional golfer Dorothy Delasin, PAGCOR's very own Veronica Domingo who is a SEA Games gold medalist in Taekwondo, and many others before them, only shows that our female Filipino athletes have got what it takes to succeed in the international arena. We hope that it is just a matter of time before they bring home the much-coveted Olympic Gold.

In support of this goal, PAGCOR will never waver in its commitment to be the biggest benefactor of Philippine sports. Last year, we remitted over P370 million to the Philippine Sports Commission to train our athletes and uplift the standards of Philippine sports. PAGCOR, under my leadership, intends to do more. We would like to take a more proactive role in identifying and addressing the needs of vital sports constituencies like yours.

We look forward to developing a closer relationship with the WNCAA, particularly in crafting a comprehensive program to develop women's sports in the country.

Mabuhay ang kababaihan sa sports!
Mabuhay ang WNCAA!

EFRAIM C. GENUINO
Chairman
Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp.

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THE 32ND SEASON OF THE

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WOMEN'S NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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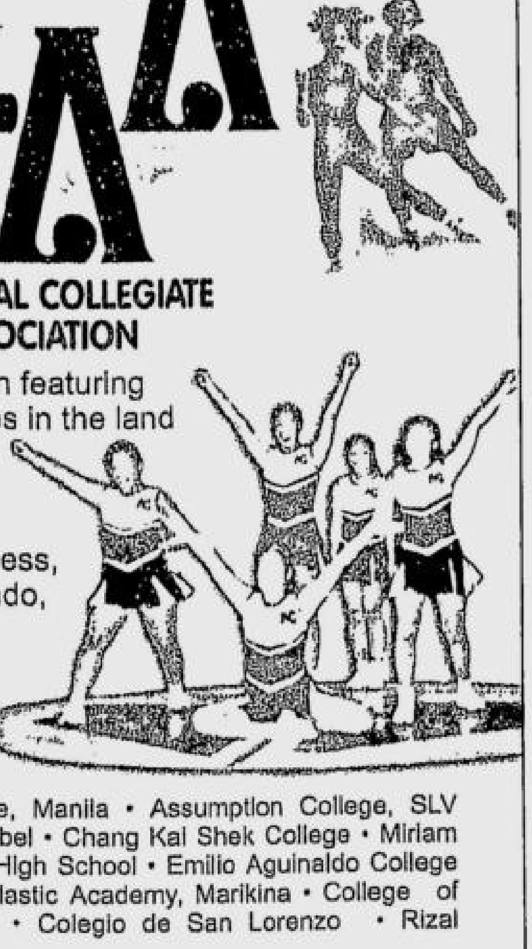

The Participating Schools: St. Scholastica's College, Manila • Assumption College, SLV • Lyceum University of the Philippines • De La Salle-Zobel • Chang Kai Shek College • Miriam College • Siena College, Quezon City • St. Stephen High School • Emilio Aguinaldo College • Angelicum College • St. Benedict College • St. Scholastic Academy, Marikina • College of St.Benilde • University of the Assumption-Pampanga • Colegio de San Lorenzo • Rizal Technological University

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DEL MONTE GC

Villaroman keeps Southern Ladies lead

DEL MONTE, Bukidnon—Carmelette Villaroman, pushed to the wall by equally eminent rivals crowding her for the crown, needed another eagle yesterday to retain her lead in the 39th Southern Ladies Open here.

The 25-year-old Villaroman made birdie-eagle on 8 and 9 for a huge 30 going out and then came home with a 25 for 55 points, a 1-under-par 71 in a solid followup to her opening-day 70=56 points. She also had an eagle Wednesday—on the par-4 17th from 40 yards.

But Villaroman's 1-point margin looked precarious as the second-running Lina de Guzman and third-placed Aileen Rose Yao both swore to unleash corpuscled bids for the championship in today's last round.

"I'll go for it tomorrow," said De Guzman, a many-time national player and Villaroman's teammate from Canlubang. "I need a major crown, too."

De Guzman, the oldest from what used to be a pool of national aspirants at 41, fired another 55 (71) on the strength of three birdies, although she could have easily grabbed the lead had she canned a pair of four-footers on 2 and 3.

Yao, the 19-year-old Valley mainstay itching for revenge after she lost her Philippine Ladies Open title two weeks ago at Wack Wack by a single shot, also assembled a 71 to stay just two points behind Villaroman and one off De Guzman.

The three chief contenders will be flagged off at 7:46 a.m. today in anticipated wire-to-wire finish in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Wide Wide World Express-DHL, Directories Philippines Corp., Air Philippines, Mizuno, Hidden Spring and Perrier, Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Belmonte Corp. and the Gopez Group of Companies.

"Three-peat" seeking Heidi Chua of Wack Wack slipped to fourth in a tie with Lora Roberto of Southwoods in the NGAP-organized annual tournament that began in 1963 in Cebu.

The 25-year-old Chua had a 52 after a first-round 53 while Roberto improved to 54 from 51 as the duo tied for 105, six points behind Villaroman.

Fourteen-year-old Lovelyn Guioguio, the promising daughter of Del Monte Golf Club's deputy of the clubhouse chief cook, was at 49=98. Tracy Locsin of Southwoods was at 49-97 in a tie with Eva Minoza (47=97) of Del Monte to round up the championship division standings.

Other scores:

Class A—Stephanie Yu 93 Wack Wack, Inday Minoza 90 Del Monte; Venice Godio 89 Sta. Elena.

Class B—Cheryl Chua 83 Wack Wack, Hilda Badong 81 Phil. Navy, Necing Baslan 80 Del Monte.

Class C—Gloria Alazas 73 Cebu CC, Anita Sale 68 Del Monte, Marissa Romano 67 Orchard, Alice Andrada 67 Alabang, Marlyn Lui 67 Pueblo de Oro.

Class D—Marilen Bantug 63 Valley, Maribel San Miguel 63 Del Monte, Sheela Vanessa Kho 62 Wack Wack.

VILLAROMAN: Hanging tough. ROMY HOMILLADA

BAGUIO HOST

Huge field joining 14th Corporate Cup

NORTHWEST Ailines is putting at stake two business-class tickets to New York and a Wilson golf set for hole-in-one feats in the 14th edition of the Corporate Cup golf tournament on Feb. 12-14 at the Club John Hay course in Baguio City.

Former Philippine Sports Commission chair Cecil G. Herchanova announced that if not won, the Northwest tickets and the Wilson iron set will be raffled off during the awards ceremonies.

More than 30 teams have already confirmed entry to the event sponsored by Camp John Hay Development Corp., College Assurance Plan, Wilson Philippines, Le Souffle, Premier Wines and Spirits, Nestle Phils., San Miguel Corp. and Smart.

Among those already registered are foreign teams from Hawaii, Japan, Indonesia, San Francisco, Texas and Canada.

Interested parties have until 12 noon of Feb. 9 to submit their entry forms at the Corporate Cup Golf Foundation of the Philippines secretariat at tel. no. 811-1222, look for Mary Ann, fax no. 811-1230.

The welcome cocktails will be held at the Piano Bar of the newly opened John Hay Manor with Le Souffle preparing the food and the awards night will be at the Clubhouse for what promises to be a romantic Valentine's Day evening.

Teams are allowed to field five players with the best four counting each day.

Participants will be classified according to their average handicaps with Group 1 for 0-9.99, Group II for 10-13.99 and Group III for 14-18.99 and Group IV for 19 and above.

There will be a separate division for seniors aged 55 and above.

Tiger favors Open at T. Pines

SAN DIEGO—Tiger Woods is all for having a US Open at Torrey Pines.

It wouldn't be until 2008, and the public course is bidding against Riviera Country Club, but Woods endorsed Torrey Pines on Wednesday after getting his first look at the longer, tougher South Course during a practice round for the Buick Invitational which starts Thursday (Friday in Manila).

"They've done a heck of a job here. I do like it," said Woods, who had been skeptical about the renovations until playing the blufftop course overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

"And the changes are definitely more for the way the game is changing," said Woods, who grew up about 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of here and has been playing Torrey Pines since his junior golf days. "Guys are getting longer and stronger, and for what they want to have here, a US Open, they did the right thing because I think this is a wonderful venue for it."

The South Course was toughened during a dlrs 3.3 million renovation. The official distance for the Buick is 6,887 meters (7,568 yards), nearly 500 meters (550 yards) longer from the back tees than what it's played in the past.

Besides lengthening the South Course, architect Rees Jones changed every tee box, bunker and green. Approaches were toughened and the undulations in the greens were changed. **AP**

Boxing group wants other states to deny Tyson license

NEW YORK—The Association of Boxing Commissions is recommending that other states follow Nevada by denying Mike Tyson a boxing license.

The ABC's suggestion isn't binding, though, because while state commissions uphold other states' license revocations or suspensions of boxers, they are not bound to honor a license denial.

Shelly Finkel, Tyson's adviser, said seven states have expressed interest in a Tyson challenge to WBC-IBF heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis.

General manager Eddie Gossage of the Texas Motor Speedway at Fort Worth, said he spoke with Finkel and Main Events, Lewis' American promoter.

Dickie Cole, boxing coordinator of Texas, has said Tyson could get a license there. He has not applied, but he is supposed to apply for a license in California in about two weeks.

There also is a political reason behind the ABC's action. **AP**

Pasay 4-cock derby on tonight

PASAY City Cockpit's second PCCA 4-Cock Derby gets going at 7 tonight.

A total of some 54 exciting fights are slated in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Hammer Dewormer.

According to pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Buchoy Olano, the winners in this event will receive a cash prize of P300,000.

Derby hosts are PCCA members Dante Eustaquio, Jojie Carandang and Capt. Mirande.

Entry fee is P10,000.

Five PCCA derbies will serve as basis in selecting the 2002 Cocker of the Year winner, who will receive a bonus prize of P100,000. Gerry Maningas' entry, Happy Birthday, won the first PCCA derby on Jan. 18.

Meanwhile, another 4-cock event is slated at PCC on Feb. 15 with JR Sa Pasay as host.

For other inquiries, please contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Marlboro country

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TWO things remain precious in Tino Tugot's ride into the sunset: Smoking and golf.

Shocked with the first one but not the second?

Oh, well, think again, fellas.

I bumped into golf's living legend yesterday and when I asked him if he was with the ciggie, ka Tino had a different answer. He dug his right hand into his pocket and, like the man in black with a bow tie and atop hat and white gloves, next palmed me not a rabbit but a pack of Marlboro with several sticks missing from it.

"Want some?" he said, smiling that undying smile.

"Up to now, I don't know why Marlboro hasn't made him their chief endorser," said Jake Ayson, whom Ka Tino fondly calls Bok.

Norman, Ka Tino's son of many talents, said: "My father will die without it."

In my life, Ka Tino is the most unkillable smoker I've ever known. The first time I met him in 1974, a stick of cigaret was in his lips. In the succeeding meetings after that before yesterday's, the ciggie was always there—either clipped in his fingers or in his lips.

At 89, Ka Tino, the winner of six Philippine Open crowns and the only Filipino golfer ever to shake hands with an American president (Ike Eisenhower) during a tournament in the United States, is trim and still very athletic. Not hard of hearing like most persons his age. Witty.Not looking one bit like a withered soul; you'll mistake him easily for 60 or something.

"I can never leave golf," he said. "Usually, I play twice a month and during occasions when a friend is in town."

And this you gotta believe: Ka Tino continues to play Del Monte's 18 holes minus a cart.

"My drive is now only 150 yards," he said but without a tine of sadness in his eyes.

He maybe short now off the tee, but he can still score.

"I shot a 2-over at Del Monte last year, when my daughter, Sonia, came home from the United States for a vacation," he said. "Sonia beat me, of course. She shot 3-under."

And to think they played from the men's tee.

"Let's play tomorrow?" he said. "Norman, Jake, you and I will make a great foursome."

OK.

Then he stood up and prepared to leave the airconditioned room.

"Excuse me, please, as I need to step outside for a while," he said. "I need a smoke."

Venus, Monica cruise past foes

PARIS —Top seed Venus Williams and fellow American Monica Seles cruised to victory on Wednesday in their first matches in the $ 585,000 Gaz de France tournament.

Williams, ranked second in the world WTA rankings, recorded six aces en route to 6-1, 6-3 victory over American Meilen Tu in the second-round action.

Seles, 10th in the WTA rankings, topped Austria's Barbara Schett 6-2, 6-3. Seles was coming off a loss to Martina Hingis in the Toray Pan Pacific tournament in Japan on Sunday.

In other second-round action, eighth-ranked Amelie Mauresmo of France topped Russia's Anna Kournikova 6-3, 7-5. **AP**

Sports fotogs hold fellowship

THE SPORTS Press Photographers Association of the Philippines will hold a Fellowship Night starting at 7 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 9) at the National Press Club.

To be honored are the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Taekwondo Association, Philippine Tennis Association, Philippine Basketball League, Philippine Basketball Association, Metropolitan Basketball Association, Basketball Association of the Philippines, National Golf Association of the Philippines, Airfreight 2100-FedEx, Milo, RFM, Agfa HDC Film, San Miguel Corporation and Holiday Inn Manila Hotel for helping SPPAP in the upliftment of sports photojournalism.

All SPPAP members are enjoined to attend the affair.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Homer Cunanan beat Gerry Caballon in 54 moves of a Ruy Lopez to win the PCDF non-master chess tournament at the Clean-up Chess club in Quezon City. Also today in 1991, Arsenia Sagaray clocked 35 minutes and 21.6 seconds in the 10,000-m event to smash her 36:14.4 mark at the National Prisaa Championship in Pampanga.

Grassroots football

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE 18TH season of the country's longest running youth sports program Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament ended last week in Iloilo, with host Barotac Nuevo Comprehensive High School emerging champion.

Sparked by 15-year-old Melvin Pelayo, who scored both winning goals, Barotac Nuevo shut out Cebu Carmen National High School, 2-0, to win its second championship in six years under coach Francisco Suba. It first won the title in 1995 at the University of St. La Salle oval in Bacolod City. However, two other schools—De La Salle Zobel NCR and Silliman University Negros Oriental—have a better record in the tally board, having won the title three times.

"A total of 308 teams participated in this 18th season," said lawyer Rene Adad, former Philippine branch manager of the Coca-Cola Export Corp. and now president of the Philippine Football Federation, which has taken over the administration of this grassroots football program in 1997, leaving only the planning, funding and publicizing to the Atlanta-based giant soft drink manufacturer. "Of this total, 70 percent or 215 teams came from public schools, which otherwise could not afford to have their own sports development projects. It is a living symbol of a genuine grassroots football program based on the idea that people even from dramatically diverse backgrounds can play together, play to win and play fair. It is a program that bridges the gap between the rich and poor, between a wide variety of ethnic groups."

For its 18th edition, 172 teams represented strife-torn Mindanao, 98 came from Luzon and 38 from the Visayas. Overall, dating back to 1985, 14 teams from the Visayas and four from Luzon have won national championships while Mindanao has yet to produce a national champion.

Since its inception, more than 120,000 youngsters have taken part in Coke Go-for-Goal and benefited from it. In fact, some of the players have not even ridden an airplane, but the tournaments gave them the chance to fly and play in various parts of the country with the soft drink firm shouldering their transport fares and accommodation expenses. Through the years, the program has been consistently cited by the Philippine Sportswriters Association for its important role in grassroots sports development and promotion, illustrating once more that the country is not lacking in business firms with hearts of gold, business firms which are willing to share and give back to the community what it has given to them.

Coke Go-for-Goal started in 1976 when the Fifa (International Football Federation) president Dr. Joao Havelange of Brazil convinced the management of Coca-Cola, a longtime sponsor of the Olympic Games, to bankroll the youth-oriented football program around the world. It made its Asian debut in Hong Kong in 1979, spreading to other countries in the region, including the Philippines where the first tournament was held in 1985 and won by Don Bosco Tondo. Today, more than one million Asian youngsters are playing football, which is, without question, "the greatest game on earth."

***

READER WRITES. From Justiniano Rillera Jr. of Barangay 35 Torre, Gabu Sur 2900 Laoag City:

"I am regular reader of your column "Clean Living" and I appreciate your views in sports. Oftentimes you feature the who's who in cockfighting and horseracing in the country. Aficionados of these sports must be very happy that their names appear in your column and the results of races and matches are reported in the sports pages of your newspaper. I am sending you this letter because I have a penchant for pigeon racing. I gathered that it is a sport widely practiced here particularly in greater Manila and nearby provinces. However, I have yet to see the results of pigeon races published and the sport discussed in your column. I would be very glad if this is given space in future issues so that followers of the unique sport just like me will get the chance to know more about pigeon racing."

Bulls down Lakers anew; Mavs win

LA misses Shaq's services

LOS ANGELES—Marcus Fizer scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half as Chicago beat two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers, 97-89, Wednesday night for the second time this season.

Shaquille O'Neal sat out the Lakers' final game before the All-Star break to rest his aching feet, and was greatly missed.

Kobe Bryant scored 38 points and Slava Medvedenko added 11 for the Lakers. Samaki Walker had eight points and 14 rebounds.

The Bulls (11-36) have the NBA's worst record, but beat the Lakers twice in as many games this season—the only team they've beaten more than once this season. Their 3-22 road record is also the league's worst.

Mavericks 112, Nets 100

Tim Hardaway hit a go-ahead 3-pointer to ignite a game-ending 16-2 run that led the Dallas Mavericks to a 112-100 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Hardaway had seven of his 11 points in the run that led Dallas to a team record-tying seventh consecutive road win and ended the Nets' eight-game home winning streak.

Dallas, which shot 27-for-27 from the line and was coming off a 141-140 double-overtime victory over Indiana on Tuesday night, has won 23 of its last 28 games.

Dirk Nowitzki had 22 points and Steve Nash added 18 points and 12 assists for the Mavericks, who played without Juwan Howard, who was sitting out a one-game suspension. Wang Zhizhi had a career-high 15 points.

Kings 102, Celtics 85

In Boston, Peja Stojakovic scored 24 points and Vlade Divac had his seventh career triple-double to lead Sacramento past Boston.

Divac had 15 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists for the Kings, who entered the All-Star break with an NBA-best record of 37-11.

Antoine Walker scored 26 points for the Celtics, who lost for the fourth time in six games and closed out their first half with a record of 28-21.

The Kings, who were without Chris Webber (stomach flu), swept the season series against the Celtics for the second consecutive season and for only the fourth time since the series began in the 1948-49 season.

Cavaliers 111, Rockets 109

In Cleveland, Andre Miller scored 31 points, and Lamond Murray scored the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds remaining and blocked a shot in the last 9 seconds as Cleveland snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Houston.

Miller finished with 13 assists, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored all 12 of his points in the fourth quarter for the Cavaliers.

Timberwolves 113, Trail Blazers 103

In Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak snapped out of his scoring slump with 30 points, six rebounds and five assists as Minnesota beat Portland for its third win in nine games.

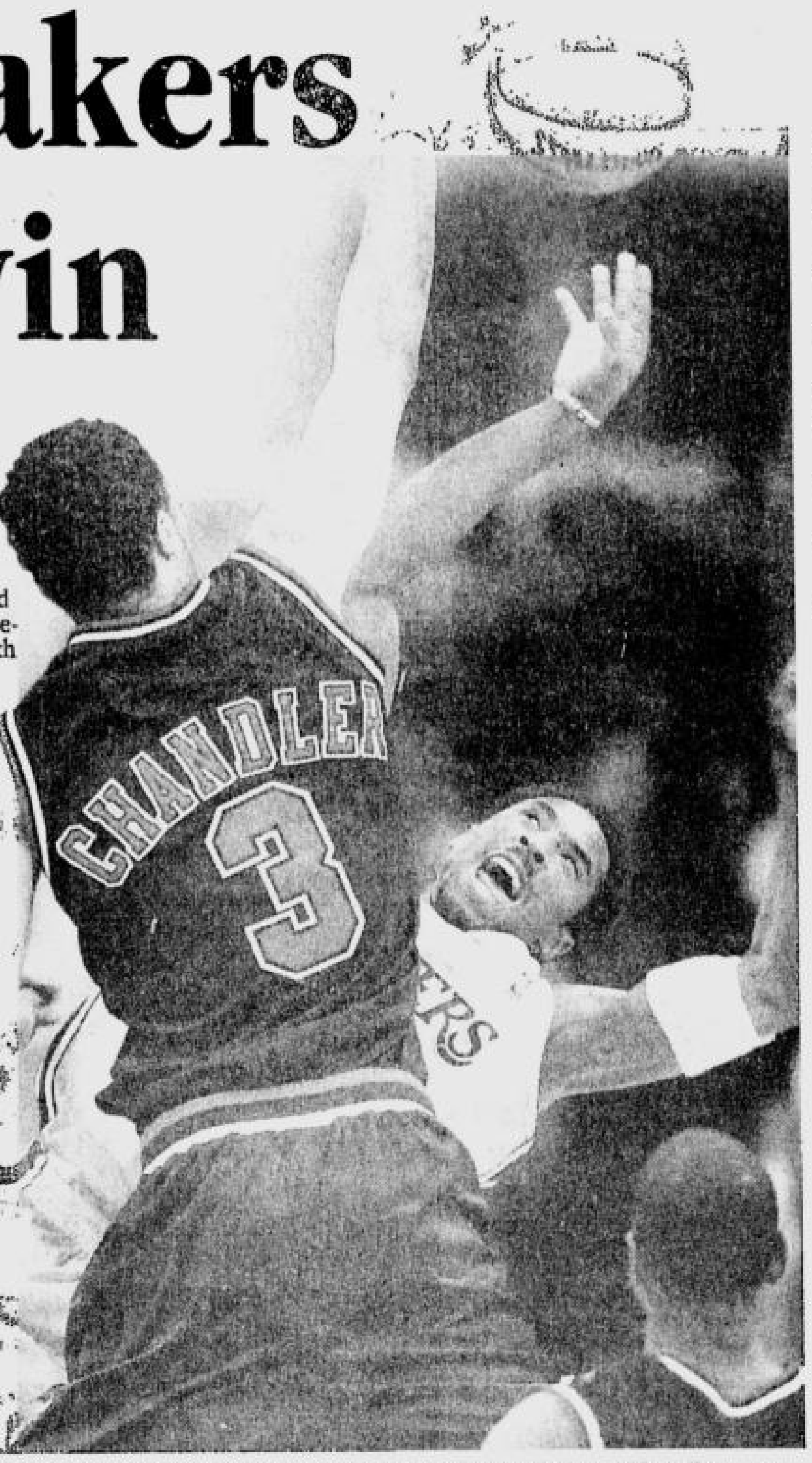
Szczerbiak shot 11-for-16 from the floor and 5-for-5 from the foul line.

Joe Smith had 21 points, while Gary Trent added 14 in a reserve role for Minnesota, which was coming off a 30-point loss to San Antonio on Monday.

Bonzi Wells scored a career-high 35 points for Portland, which lost for the fifth time in 17 games.

SuperSonics 90, Suns 79

In Seattle, Brent Barry scored 21 points, and Vin Baker added 17 points and nine rebounds as Seattle snapped a three-game home losing streak with a victory over Phoenix. *AP*



BRYANT (right) loses his balance after getting fouled by Chicago's Tyson Chandler. AP

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Real Material 2. Bullish View 3. Pussy Cat
Race 2—1. Dedicated 2. Modulo Queen 3. My Prayer
Race 3—1. Santa Fe 2. Happy Return 3. Jhelen
Race 4—1. Winning Heart 2. Top Dancer 3. Something Silver 4. Pabuya
Race 5—1. Free Time 2. Dixie Dancer
Race 6—1. Enjoy D View 2. Rain Check 3. Diamond Buck 4. Pretty Pleasing
Race 7—1. Guts 2. Powerhouse 3. Aurora Borealis 4. Alluring
Race 8—1. Empowered 2. Replica 3. Hotrod
Race 9—1. Bari Bari 2. The Mailman 3. Tayp Ko Yan 4. Knows Love 5. Rainbow Dazzler 6. Voice of Destiny

Xavier cagers score sweep

XAVIER School's gritty Stallions subdued UNO High 69-62, Wednesday to sweep the elimination round and earn a twice-to-beat advantage in the Tiong Lian basketball finals at the UNO gym.

Shifty point guard Tyrone Tang, Sammy Young, Leonard Lee and Joseph Chua sank crucial baskets in the last quarter to give the Stallions their eighth straight win in the two-round, five team cagefest.

Tang topscored with 24 points, while Young, Lee and Chua added 13, 12 and 6, respectively.

High-scoring Chris Tiu was limited to five points, but he proved to be a big help in defense, together with Bon Syiaco, Marty Tio and JC Yu.

The Stallions only have to beat UNO High on Feb. 13 to retain the crown.

The scores:

XAVIER (69)—Tang 24, Young 13, Lee 12, J. Chua 6, Tiu 5, Yu 2, R. Chua 0, Yee 0, Ang 0

UNO (62)—Tiu 20, Concepcion 14, N. Ng 10, Syki 7, Chong 6, So 5, Yee 0, Tze 0, Ng 0

Halftime: 34-all

Runnex officers induction slated

THE NEW set of officers and directors of the Executive Runners Club, Phil. Inc. (Runnex) for the year 2002, will be inducted on Feb. 15 at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City.

To be inducted are Ben Lopez (President), Pol De Leon (Vice President), Ramon Cioco (Secretary), Babes Cioco (Assistant Secretary), Conrad Callueng (Treasurer), Bert Versola (Assistant Treasurer), Cesar Cruz (Auditor) and Nestor Angeles (PRO) and Amante Pangilinan (training director).

Members of the board of directors are Nestor Angeles, Conrad Callueng, Jun Cayetano, Mon Cioco, Pol de Leon, Lito Duran, Art Figueras, Ben Lopez, Conrado Montemayor, Chito Palanca, Fidel Ringor, Emma Sembrano and Bert Versola.

Runnex activities are fully supported by Pharmaton Capsule. Induction and Valentine's party are managed by the fellowship committee chaired by Perry Luistro. Chairman of membership and award committee is Director Ruben Trinidad.

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EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L
Atlantic Division			**Midwest Division**		
New Jersey	32	15	Dallas	35	14
Boston	28	21	Minnesota	33	16
Washington	25	21	San Antonio	31	16
Orlando	25	24	Utah	25	24
Philadelphia	24	24	Houston	16	33
New York	18	28	Denver	14	31
Miami	18	29	Memphis	14	34
Central Division			**Pacific Division**		
Milwaukee	27	18	Sacramento	37	11
Toronto	28	21	L.A. Lakers	33	13
Detroit	25	21	Portland	25	23
Indiana	25	25	Seattle	25	23
Charlotte	23	24	L.A. Clippers	25	25
Atlanta	16	32	Phoenix	24	24
Cleveland	15	33	Golden State	14	32
Chicago	11	36			

COMPLETE RESULTS

Sacramento 102, Boston 85; Cleveland 111, Houston 109; Dallas 112, New Jersey 100; Minnesota 113, Portland 103; Seattle 90, Phoenix 79; Chicago 97, L.A. Lakers 89. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r—8:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—San Antonio Spurs vs Toronto Raptors at 9 a.m. (r—9 p.m.) on ESPN
US NCAA - Illinois vs Michigan at 1 p.m., Seton Hall vs Pittsburgh at midnight on ESPN
GOLF: PGA AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r—8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
PGA—Buick Invitational, First Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports
POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Jimmy White vs Tony Knowles at 7 p.m. on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League - Charlton Athletic vs Middlesbrough at 7 a.m. (r) and noon on Star Sports

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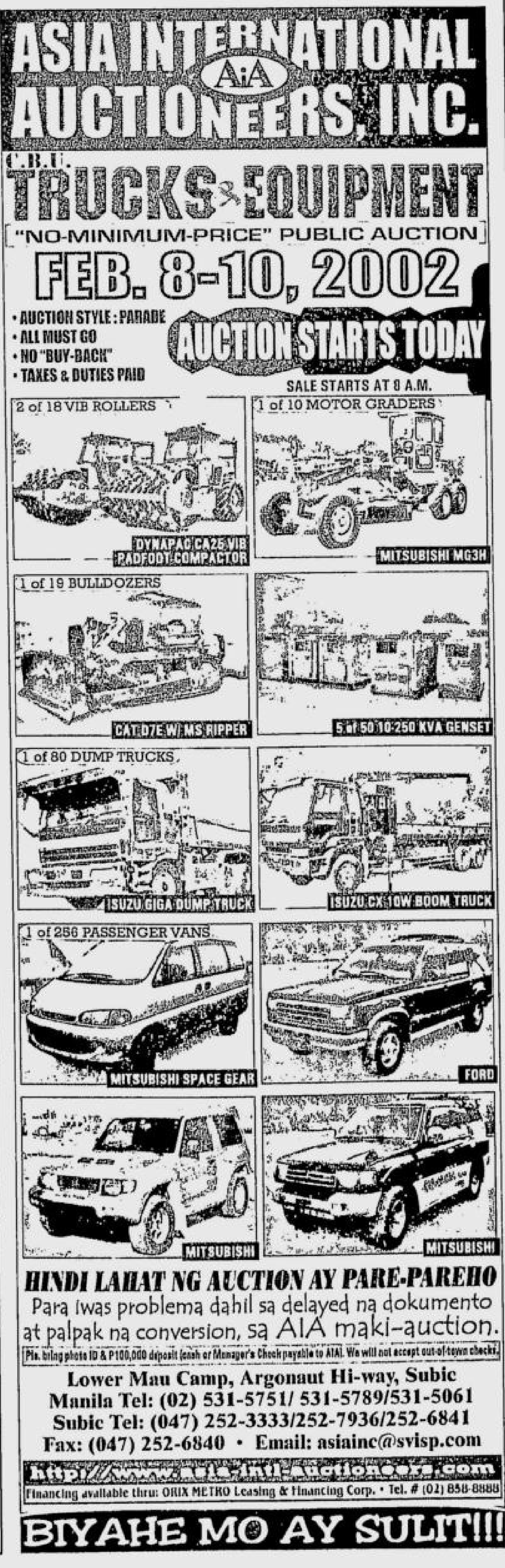
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11:00AM	RICHARD DEUNA Masbate City Nokia 6210	LORNA LUCZON Ilocos Sur ₱10,000	***ESTERLITA DELIMA*** ***Cebu City*** ***Nokia 9210***	ALVEE LOREN CELESTE Lucena City ₱20,000	***CORAZON ESPIE ABNER*** ***Marikina City*** ***Nokia 8850***	NOLI GANTE Quezon City ₱10,000	MICHEL JOSEPH MENDIOLA Mandaluyong City ₱10,000
12:00NN	GERALD GLORIA Makati City Nokia 8250	ELVIRA CUSTODIO Quezon City Nokia 6210	CARINA VILLONES Butuan City Nokia 6210	RAQUEL GAL Caloocan City Nokia 6210	***PAMELA EUSEBIO*** ***San Juan, Metro Manila*** ***₱100,000***	WAYNA CHAVANTE Kamuning, Quezon City Nokia 8310	LIZA MARIE MAGDAMIT Las Piñas City Nokia 6210
1:00PM	NELLIE GOMERA Mariveles, Bataan Nokia 6210	HOWELL TANIEGRA Dasmariñas, Cavite ₱10,000	ALMA TRAMBULO Lubao, Pampanga ₱50,000	***ROGELIO HERNANDEZ*** ***Diliman, Quezon City*** ***Nokia 8850***	JASMIN ORILLA Cainta, Rizal ₱10,000	RANDY COBRANA Makati City Nokia 6210	JINY SOLANGA Antipolo City Nokia 6210
2:00PM	VIVIAN PLETA Quezon City ₱10,000	MICHAEL GO Quezon City Nokia 6210	BRYAN QUIZON Apalit, Pampanga Nokia 6210	RACHEL SANTILLAN Taytay Rizal ₱20,000	IODINE DEBULGADO Pasay City ₱10,000	EVELYN LORIA Rosario, Cavite ₱10,000	***HERMINIA DE LEON*** ***Cebu City*** ***₱50,000***
3:00PM	***MARIA LOISA JARAPA*** ***Sampaloc, Manila*** ***₱100,000***	LEO BABON Quezon City Nokia 8310	MIRALYN FERNANDEZ Gen. Santos City Nokia 8250	STEPHANIE LIM Sta. Mesa, Manila Nokia 6210	LEMUEL VENTIGAN San Jacinto, Pangasinan Nokia 8250	***MARECRIS ARRIESGADO*** ***Cubao, Quezon City*** ***Nokia 9210***	MA. TERESA MAGAJES Las Piñas, Metro Manila Nokia 8250
4:00PM	JEAN BALLESTEROS Kamias, Quezon City ₱10,000	***KAREN UY*** ***Mandaue City*** ***₱50,000***	CRISTINA CALAPATI Malvar, Batangas ₱10,000	RANDY MASIKIP Pililia Rizal ₱10,000	MARICON CAPUYAN Lapu-lapu City, Cebu Nokia 6210	RENATO SABALLE Pangasinan Nokia 6210	ALBERT BALAJADIA Sta. Ana, Pampanga ₱10,000

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SC: MMDA must honor its P17.8B contract with garbage firm /A24

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Bare Eye: Guess who's fighting at the Cebu Waterfront tonight /A24

Another judge to testify on corruption in courts

By Jerome Aning

FOLLOWING the footsteps of Baguio City judge Ruben Ayson, a judge of a regional trial court in a Northern Metro Manila city has exposed the wrong-doings of his fellow judges.

The anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption has the cooperation of the judge, who declined to be identified, saying that he has several petitions in the Supreme Court, which could be affected by his decision.

On the strength of the judge's disclosures, the VACC announced it would set up a so-called "people's court" to act on complaints against abusive and corrupt public prosecutors, judges and justices in the country.

The judge claimed his fellow judges and their clerks of court are earning "lots of money" in "fixing" annulment cases, commercial lawsuits and reducing the bail of suspects in drug-related cases. He showed copies of five motions to reduce bail of arrested drug pushers, which the judge hearing the motions merely stamped with "Granted as prayed for" on the same day that they were filed in 1999. The usual procedure is for the judge to make separate orders citing his legal provisions and other reasons why he is granting the appeals.

The abuses and corruption are aggravated by habitual tardiness of many judges, resulting in the accumulation of cases in the courts, the judge said.

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said the group has witnessed countless times corrupt practices and irregularities among the government lawyers and judges, resulting in the delays or derailment of many VACC-assisted cases.

"Our judicial system, sad to say, could hardly ensure that justice due is what really prevails," he said. "Those who have money and influence get more justice (than) the ordinary victim. This is the ghastly reality festering (in) the judicial system."

The VACC said it would open a "national complaint center" to accept the complaints against corrupt government prosecutors, judges and even justices of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court.

The center will forward screened complaints for evaluation by the seven-member People's Court, which is composed of one representative each from the VACC, the Equal Justice Movement, the Jury Foundation and the labor sector.

One ex-judge or ex-justice, a barangay captain and a student leader from a law school would also be invited to be members of the People's Court.

The People's Court would try to prevent the erosion of the victims' or complainants' faith in the judicial system, coordinate with the Supreme Court administrator on meritorious complaints, and formulate reforms in the justice system.

Safer rides at LRT, MRT trains

By Abigail L. Ho

PASSENGERS of the mass transport systems will feel safer riding the metro trains.

More policemen would be deployed in the railways' stations and coaches after the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) signed a memorandum of agreement with the Edsa Metro Rail Transit 3 (Edsa MRT 3) and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) to enhance police visibility in the metro railway systems.

"This project is being implemented to rid the railways of snatchers, pickpockets and muggers by increasing police visibility in these areas," NCRPO director Edgar Aglipay said in a news conference on Wednesday.

Under the agreement, uniformed police personnel would be deployed in the premises of

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Antipolo rape-slay suspects believed to be police assets

By Nelson Flores

THE SUSPECTS in the rape and killing of sisters Agnes and Jasmine Bailon are believed to be police assets so that the investigation of the case is going very slow, according to reports reaching Rizal Provincial Police Office director Supt. Arturo Tolentino.

Tolentino yesterday ordered the newly designated Antipolo City police chief Supt. Jose Dayco to hasten its investigation of the case. He said the police chief is "unnaturally cautious" in his approach.

"I think his men are giving him the run around because they know some of the people involved in the crime," Tolentino said.

Tolentino also noted that the public was getting impatient with the investigation, saying that he has received a number of angry calls regarding the case.

Dayco, in turn, blamed the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for what he described to be a seeming relaxed pace in their investigation. He said they are still waiting for the results of the finger print and DNA tests conducted on evidence collected from the crime scene, and the results of investigation of people who were invited to the police station to shed light on the case.

But Dayco said they are taking their time in investigating the case to ensure that there would be no hasty filing of charges.

"We want to be sure that everything is done right because we want justice to be properly served," he stressed.

Earlier, Dioscoro Bailon, the father of the sisters also noted the slow pace of the investigation by police as he urged witnesses, which include a 14-year-old girl, to come out in the open and help the lawmen in their investigation.

ANTIPOLO/ A24

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 08 912-8983

PCL head denies corruption charge

LAWYER Froilan Melendrez has filed libel charges against the Philippine Daily Inquirer and a Manila councilor, who accused him of corruption.

Melendrez said on Wednesday he sued Manila Councilor Richard Ibay for accusing him of wanting to make extra money out of the registration fee of Philippine Councilors League members, attending the 5th National Congress on Feb. 21-23 in Makati City.

Melendrez is the president of the 18,000-member Philippine Councilors League and a member of Cotabato City's Sangguniang Panglungsod.

The story appeared under the byline of Jerome Aning in the paper's Metro section on Feb. 2.

In the report, Ibay made a privilege speech before the Manila City Council on Jan. 31, alleging that Melendrez arbitrarily removed him as chair of the committee on accommodations for exposing Melendrez's alleged move to increase by P100 the hotel accommodation rate of P2,300 "so he can use it in his reelection bid."

Melendrez denied this, saying it was the PCL national board that approved the P2,400 package rate in a meeting on Feb. 1.

Melendrez said he was humiliated by the news story. He said contrary to the news report, it was Ibay who, as early as Oct. 26, contracted a travel agency that will take charge of the accommodations of 8,000 to 10,000 participants at a package rate of P2,700 per person. *Charlie C. Señase*

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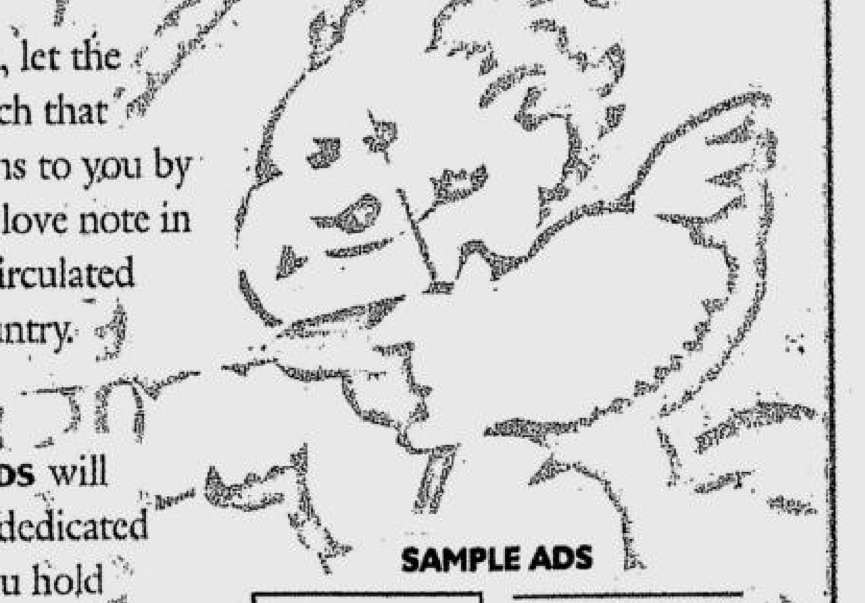

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[illegible]

Aglipay vows to give people what they want–dedicated cops

By Philip C. Tubeza

METRO Manila police chief Director Edgar Aglipay defended his policy imposing strict disciplinary rules on policemen under his command and denied that the National Police Commission has ordered him to stop the transfer of erring lawmen to the provinces.

"We will (still) exchange them (the erring policemen) for those who can follow rules," Aglipay said. "This is what the mayors, the retirees, and the people of Metro Manila want: Dedicated policemen."

Aglipay said he talked to Napolcom executive commissioner Rogelio Pureza Wednesday morning and learned that the Napolcom vice chair did not issue any order regarding the transfers.

Aglipay said Pureza even invited him to the Napolcom on Monday for a dialogue.

"We just want to get better policemen," Aglipay said regarding the transfers. "Maybe they (erring lawmen) will work better in the provinces."

On Tuesday, the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, composed of Manila policemen with the rank of SPO4 and below, gave reporters copies of Pureza's alleged memo to PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza.

In his two-page memo, Pureza allegedly ordered a halt to the transfer of policemen who were found to be frequently late or absent in roll-call formation, or for not wearing the proper uniform.

Pureza also wrote that the provinces should not be turned into a dumping ground for incompetent Manila policemen.

He added that erring lawmen should be punished only after they were informed of their violations and summoned to a hearing.

"Verily, (the transfers) demonstrate practices that contradict and undermine the 'civilian character' of police forces and the supremacy of civilian authority principle (in the) Constitution," Pureza allegedly wrote in the memo.

"(Police officials) should 'desist from performing arbitrary relief and reassignments in the future; and be reminded that other PNP units should never be the *tapunan* (dumping ground) of perceived undesirables."

SC: MMDA must honor its ₱17.8-B contract with garbage company

By Alcuin Papa

THE SUPREME Court virtually committed the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to honor its P17.8-billion garbage contract with Jancom Environmental Corp. when the tribunal affirmed the validity of the contract recently.

In a press conference Wednesday, MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said the high court found the contract to be "valid and perfected," and that it only needs the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo to be implemented.

"I am now awaiting the decision of the President on the matter," Abalos said. "I have told her that we have to respect the decision of the high court."

Abalos said he had briefed the President on the decision of the High Court and apprised her of the possible repercussions on foreign investments if the contract is not implemented.

Abalos said there might not be any "grounds for a reconsideration of the (high court) decision."

"We have our lawyers but we might end up just reiterating our same objections to the contract," he said. "The Supreme Court might consider it pro-forma."

Some of the issues raised by the MMDA in contesting the validity of the contract are the passage of the Clean Air Act, which banned the use of incinerators, the closure of the San Mateo landfill site, and the costly tipping fee.

Abalos said Jancom was willing to amend the contract and "downgrade" its technology from the use of incinerators to the use of landfills so as not to violate the Clean Air Act. He added that he is now just waiting for Jancom's proposal for a suitable landfill site.

As for the tipping fee, Abalos said the national government will have to allot more money to the MMDA to pay off Jancom's tipping rates.

Operators of incinerators or landfills receive a tipping fee for every ton of garbage collected for them by the local government.

Under the contract, the government and the MMDA is bound to pay Jancom tipping fees of $60 or P3,000 per metric ton. Jancom's contract stipulates that it must be able to process 3,000 tons per day. At present, the MMDA pays garbage contractors P450 per ton in tipping fees.

On Dec. 19, 1997, Jancom signed a $350-million waste management contract with then MMDA chair Prospero Oreta, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Victor Ramos and Malacañang's Cabinet officer for Regional Development-NCR Dionisio dela Cerna.

But then President Fidel Ramos did not sign the contract due to Jancom's failure to comply with certain conditions in the agreement.

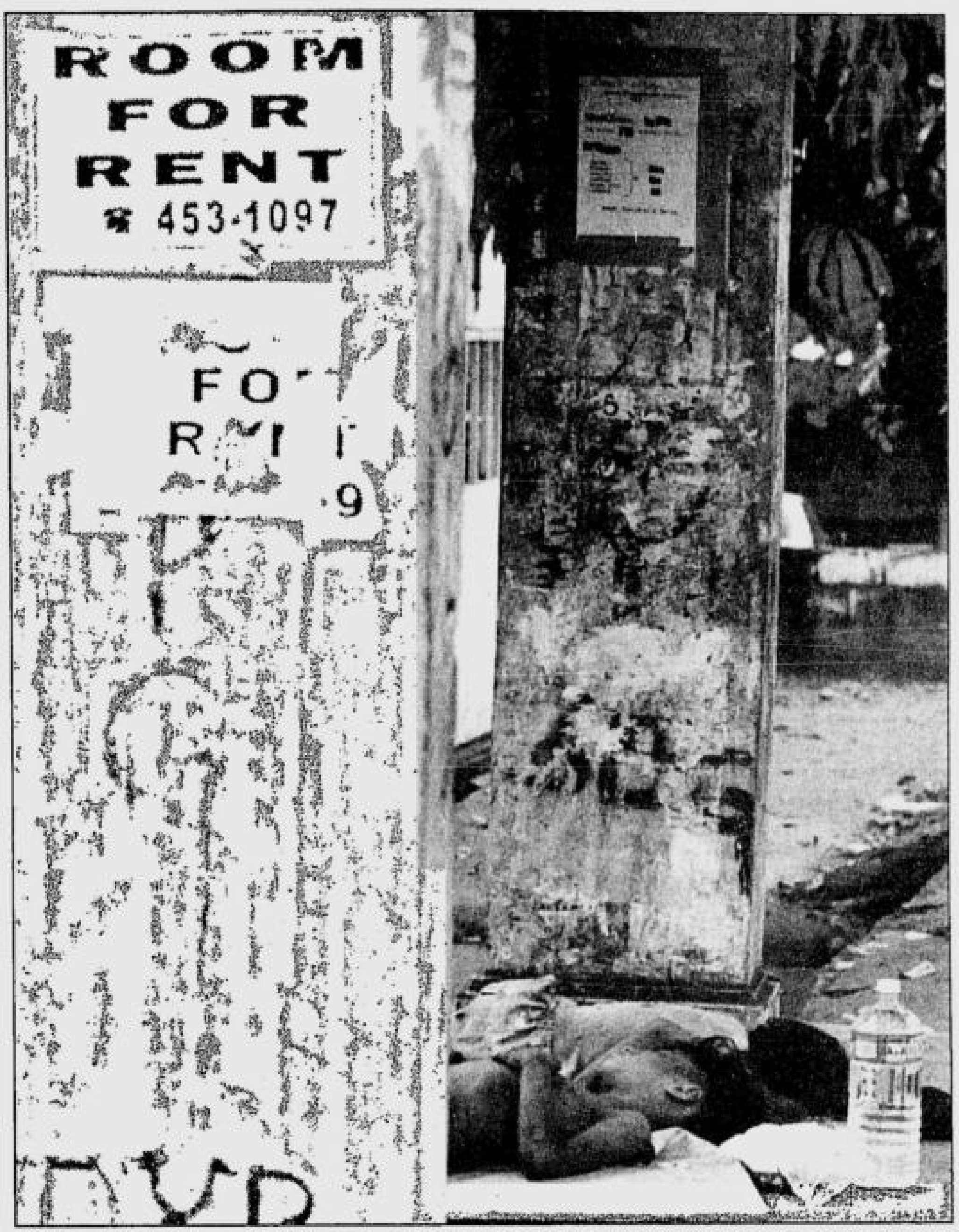
The Estrada administration did not also pursue the contract because of the passage of the Clean Air Act, which banned incineration.

Because the contract with Jancom was stalled at a time when Metro Manila is experiencing a garbage crisis, the Greater Metropolitan Manila Solid Waste Management Committee under Flagship Projects Secretary Roberto Aventajado and the MMDA decided to conduct a public bidding and gave to another party the contract for the construction and operation of a landfill.

On March 9, 2000, Jancom filed a case against the MMDA and the GMMSWMC to stop the bidding and got a temporary restraining order from the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

On Nov. 13, 2000, the Court of Appeals issued an order upholding the Jancom contract, preventing government from awarding the garbage to contract to another firm.

While the Supreme Court reviewed the case, the MMDA looked for other firms that will take care of the garbage problem of the metropolis and awarded the landfill contract to the winning firm.



JOAN BONDOC

LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER
Concerned residents of Short Horn street corner Road 23 in Project 8, Quezon City, took pity on this homeless pair of siblings whose father, residents said, is languishing in jail. The residents yesterday tried to wake them up to give them food. But the children allegedly refused the kindness of residents and meekly went on their way like lambs, preferring to live off the streets.

METROBRIEFS

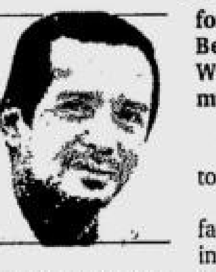
Indecent exposure

ARNALDO Oliveros was nabbed Wednesday morning for masturbating in front of a college student inside a bus in Makati City. The victim, a 20-year-old accounting student at a state university and resident of Biñan, Laguna, told police that while she was onboard an aircon bus traveling along South Superhighway bound for Manila, the man sitting beside her suddenly whipped out his organ and started to mess with it. The woman said she started to weep when she asked help from a male passenger sitting in front of her. When the bus stopped at the corner of Buendia Avenue, the two got down and told traffic enforcers on duty about the lewd act. Traffic enforcers then stopped the bus and arrested Oliveros, 29, a painter working for SKM Artcraft Corp. and a resident of Camia Street, Filrizan Subdivision, Bayanan, Muntinlupa City. Authorities caught him in the act of zipping up his pants. Oliveros was booked at Makati City police station with unjust vexation charges. ***Alcuin Papa***

Illegal recruitment

RUSTICO U. Bacolod and Doris M. Suizo were arrested for defrauding dozens of job applicants of P2.3 million in Manila in an elaborate illegal recruitment scheme, according to National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Bacolod, 48, of the Alkahleej International Service agency at Gedisco Center, Ermita, and Suizo, 41, of Araneta Mansion, Rodriguez Street, Malibay, Pasay City, allegedly recruited 38 applicants for non-existent jobs in Korea and California, USA. They supposedly asked the victims processing and placements fees ranging from P75, 000 to P120,000. The NBI is looking for a third suspect, one Nelson Tarayo, of Nelctcir Manpower Agency. The victims told authorities the suspects offered them a monthly salary of $900 and were supposed to get their jobs last December. But when the year ended, the applicants were still not able to leave the country. In February, the victims decided to file a complaint against the suspects and demanded the return of their passports and money. But the suspects were not able to return the victims' money and passports. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration also said the suspects were neither licensed nor authorized to recruit workers for overseas employment. ***Philip Tubeza***

Guess who's fighting at the Cebu Waterfront tonight?



BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IF fans end up mumbling the name of Malcolm Tunacao's opponent after tonight's outing at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City, they would've lost the other half of an emerging masterpiece.

The name of Tunacao's foe is a tongue-twister. Unpronounceable, if you please, because the fellow happens to be Thai.

Remember Ponsangklek Wongsongkham? Obviously you don't.

We can't forget him. The tiny, peppery Thai surprise package jumped on a pale, shaky Tunacao in Pichit, Thailand last year to steal the World Boxing Council flyweight crown from the shocked Cebuano. The Thai smothered Tunacao by flooring him three times.

After losing his world crown in less than a round, Tunacao was next seen slumped at the edge of the fight ring crying, his weary palms covering his shamed face.

The poor loser appeared every humbled inch like an intruder who had run straight into a rushing locomotive.

***

Now, enough of that. Tunacao has since climbed to the 115-pound division from the 112-pound flyweight bracket. He's now a junior bantamweight, or a super flyweight, depending on your preference.

Anyway, as in Tunacao's disastrous outing in Thailand last year, even his handlers could not promptly remember, much less spell, the name of the opponent he's set to box in Cebu tonight.

Rex Wakee Salud, the maker of world champs (three in all) who has assembled tonight's card at the Waterfront, in fact, excused himself to go home and look over his files.

Not to bother, Wakee was told. Just pray that we don't end up twisting our tongues and trying to spell out, properly, the name of the unknown Thai after tonight.

(Two Philippine title fights, in the minimum weight and junior flyweight, are also slated.)

***

Tunacao cannot afford to lose.

If he does, he'd have squandered the chance to square off with Gerry Peñalosa, a former WBC super flyweight ruler who's himself grimly chasing another world crown.

It's like this. Peñalosa is set to box the sensational Joel Avila, who was supposed to have annexed an interim version of the WBC international super flyweight title. They fight at the Makati Coliseum on March 2.

Needless to say, both Tunacao and Peñalosa must hurdle their immediate assignments.

If they do, their handlers have agreed to have them tangle in what is being billed this early as a dream encounter.

Wakee Salud had at first frowned on the idea of making the two Pinoy ring sensations clash.

He however got convinced of the importance of such a dream bout for the careers of both Tunacao and Peñalosa.

***

Hope this has not dragged and sounded quite complicated.

For the record, Peñalosa, after the WBC belatedly acknowledged the foulness of his bloody setback in Yokohama last September, granted Gerry a bonus crack at the world 115-crown.

But hold it. First, Musomori Tokoyama, the WBC title-holder who had repeatedly head-butted Peñalosa during the Yokohama championship, has to make another title defense first.

A lot depends on that championship fight. If Tokoyama succeeds, he'd most likely defend against Peñalosa some time in September.

A shorter route could be in line for Peñalosa if Tokoyama loses. Because, as ruled out by the WBC, Tokoyama's conqueror must face Peñalosa outright.

***

Well, sorry about those circuitous notes.

All told, what we all boxing fans look forward to is the emerging masterpiece promised in that Peñalosa-Tunacao encounter.

Now, if there's anybody who must first acquit himself, it's nobody else but Malcolm Tunacao.

Gerry Peñalosa is no stranger to the 115-pound kingdom. He has been campaigning as a super flyweight for quite some time.

The pressure is on Tunacao to prove that he's once again ready for the world as a super flyweight.

In his last outing at the Casino Filipino where Tunacao challenged Randy Mangubat for the RP flyweight title, the Cebuano appeared skeletal, his frame frail as a kite's.

In fact, in Pichit, Thailand last March, where he was to lose his WBC 112-pound crown, he had to make frustrating, painful tries before he passed the weight test.

Even then, the prescription was for Tunacao to move at least one division up.

It's up for him to show tonight that he has taken on the proper cure.

Safer rides . . .

From page A23

the Edsa MRT 3 and the LRT, including their light rail vehicles.

A maximum of six personnel in complete uniform, including headgear, would be stationed inside both railway systems' trains. They would be manning the front and the backdoors of each coach.

Even if there were vacant seats on the train, these police personnel would remain standing. They would also get off at each stop to conduct quick inspections or to allow other policemen to take their places inside the trains.

Aglipay said policemen assigned to the Edsa MRT 3 and the LRT would be wearing special badges that would allow them free access to the railways' trains and facilities.

Those without these badges would be considered off duty and would be asked to pay for the ride.

"We need around 24 hours to work this out with our personnel," Edsa MRT 3 general manager Mario Miranda said. "We'll scan the badges and inform our station supervisors that only policemen wearing these badges would be allowed free access to the MRT."

Aglipay said the NCRPO had already deployed 240 police personnel to maintain security in the Edsa MRT 3 and the LRT. This number is split between the two railways.

With the signing of the agreement, he assured the riding public that this would be further enhanced "so the riding public could be confident that they are secure when riding the trains."

The added police personnel are expected to enhance security, especially during peak hours.

LRTA administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. said these personnel would be a big help in making sure that the LRT stations and trains are safe at all times.

During peak hours, the LRT operates 72 coaches. This number goes down to 50 or 60 coaches during off-peak hours. On the average, the LRT serves 350,000 commuters a day.

Antipolo rape-slay suspects believed . . .

From page A23

"They (the police) are too slow," a teary-eyed Bailon earlier told newsmen.

Bailon said witnesses, especially the still unnamed 14-year-old girl, could identify the suspects who they allegedly saw coming out of the Bailon house on the day and time his daughters were raped and killed. He said they had just moved into their house in Sitio Dalig Uno, Barangay Dalig last July and did not know anyone yet in their community since they were not at home most of the time.

Bailon also said that before the killing, Jasmine, his youngest child, had been talking about the neighborhood bullies who were making passes at her or courting her.

Jasmine's classmates at the Far Eastern University, where she finished a degree in mathematics, corroborated Mr. Bailon's claim and recounted how the young woman had told them she did not like their new neighborhood.

"She did not want to live there because of the environment," one of Jasmine's classmates said.

Police sources earlier revealed that four of the suspects, who were invited to the police station for finger printing, already went missing early this week. Among the missing suspects is Carlito Buluran, a brother-in-law of principal suspect Jovie Guray.

Buluran was released from police custody immediately after police took his fingerprints last Saturday.

Police records said that Guray, a known drug dependent and neighborhood toughie, has a string of robbery and theft cases in his name. Jasmine Baylon also accused him of stealing her cellular phone last December.

"After Jasmine filed criminal charges against Guray, he allegedly threatened to kill her," Dayco said.

Police believe the sisters were raped and killed inside their room in their house between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. of Feb. 1.

The sisters' friend Arnold Jaurigue found their bodies when he went to their house after the sisters failed to answer his repeated cell phone calls.

The sisters were found stabbed dead, naked and hogtied, police said. Jasmine also had torture marks in her body. Dayco said she was hit in the head with a hard object and apparently choked with pillows leading investigators to conclude that there were more than one person involved in the crime.

Tolentino said a P100,000 reward has been offered for any information that could lead to the arrest of Guray and his accomplices. He said Antipolo City Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan and other concerned individuals had raised the reward money, following a public outrage over the crime.

RYAN JACKMAN
KATE LEOPOLD

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
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8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

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5	
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4	KAULAYAW
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6	FROM HELL
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

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2	
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4	BLACKHAWK DOWN

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3	
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2	KAULAYAW

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2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4 (SDDS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
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7 (DTS)	FROM HELL
8	HUSTLER
9	KAULAYAW

Commonwealth
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3	KAULAYAW
4	HUSTLER
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7 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

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Dilson	
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Jennet	HUSTLER

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1	FROM HELL
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KAULAYAW

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3	KAULAYAW

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	REBULOSYONARYO

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
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1	REBULOSYONARYO
2	KAULAYAW
3	HUSTLER
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	FROM HELL

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	KAULAYAW
2	HUSTLER

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HUSTLER
2	FROM HELL

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2	KATE & LEOPOLD
3 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS)	KATE & LEOPOLD
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4	FROM HELL

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4 (DTS)	MARSHALL DICK

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3 (DTS)	FROM HELL
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD

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3	KATE & LEOPOLD

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2	VANILLA SKY
3	KATE & LEOPOLD

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

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2	WOLF GIRL
3	

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2 (DTS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN

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2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	AMERICAN ADOBO

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2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	ISANG PANAGINIP
4	FINAL ANSWER

Jade Cinema
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3	VANILLA SKY
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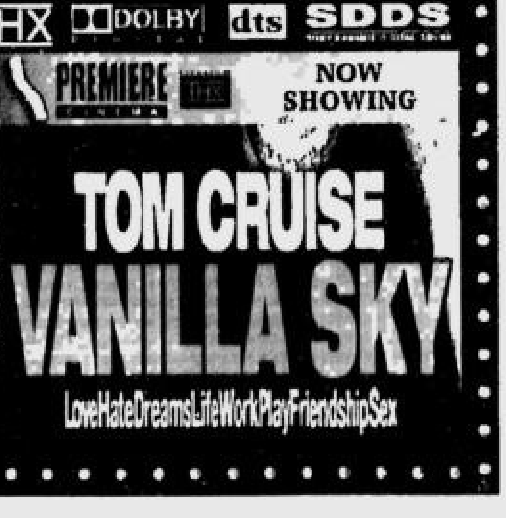

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6	FROM HELL
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	ISANG PANAGINIP
9	REBULOSYONARYO
10	THE OTHERS

ERMITA
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1	VANILLA SKY
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	THE OTHERS
4	KATE AND LEOPOLD
5	ISANG PANAGINIP
6	BLACK HAWK DOWN
7	FROM HELL

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2	VANILLA SKY
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7	FROM HELL
8	OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KATE AND LEOPOLD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	MARSHALL DICK
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	KAULAYAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	HUSTLER
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	2 PISNGI NG PAG IBIG / OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	FROM HELL
ODEON-2	MARSHALL DICK
ROBEN	KAULAYAW
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE SCORE / WOLF GIRL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAULAYAW
REMAR	KAULAYAW
REMAR-2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HUSTLER
B	KAULAYAW
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	FROM HELL
CINEMA-2	VANILLA SKY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
CINEMA-3	KAULAYAW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
CINEMA-6	FINAL ANSWER
CINEMA-7	HUSTLER
CINEMA-8	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BLACK HAWKDOWN
CINEMA-12	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-14	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-15	ISANG PANAGINIP
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
CINEMA-4	FROM HELL
CINEMA-5	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-6	VANILLA SKY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
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7	MARSHALL DICK
8	KATE & LEOPOLD

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8	FROM HELL
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SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3	THE OTHERS
4	BLACK HAWK DOWN
5	FROM HELL
6	VANILLA SKY
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	HUSTLER
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
11	MARSHALL DICK
12	REBULOSYONARYO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	THE OTHERS
2	FROM HELL
3	BLACK HAWKDOWN
4	VANILLA SKY
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	KATE & LEOPOLD
7	FINAL ANSWER
8	REBULOSYONARYO
9	ISANG PANAGINIP
10	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11	KAULAYAW
12	HUSTLER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	FROM HELL
2	MARSHALL DICK
3	REBULOSYONARYO
4	ISANG PANAGINIP
5	KATE & LEOPOLD
6	VANILLA SKY
7	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	AMERICAN ADOBO
10	KAULAYAW
11	FINAL ANSWER
12	THE OTHERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066086 • 8066782

1	MARSHALL DICK
2	FROM HELL
3	VANILLA SKY
4	KATE & LEOPOLD
5	KAULAYAW
6	THE OTHERS
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	BLACK HAWK DOWN
9	OCEAN'S ELEVEN
10	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	CORKY ROMANO
5	EARTHQUAKE
6	FINAL ANSWER
7	ISANG PANAGINIP
8	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GIRL FEVER
2	CLOSED
3	BLACK HAWK DOWN
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	AMERICAN ADOBO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	CLOSED
8	ZOOLANDER

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	VANILLA SKY
3	THE OTHERS
4	FINAL ANSWER
5	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	KATE & LEOPOLD
2	BLACK HAWK DOWN
3	VANILLA SKY
4	ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820905

1	KAULAYAW
2	VANILLA SKY
3	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	VANILLA SKY
2	ISANG PANAGINIP
3	KATE & LEOPOLD
4	REBULOSYONARYO

SM CITY DAVAO
2974004

1	BLACK HAWK DOWN
2	ZOOLANDER
3	HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	FINAL ANSWER
6	KATE & LEOPOLD

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
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Constant state of dread

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"THE OTHERS" tells a ghost story that has a clever twist in the end. The only trouble is, the twist is sort of similar to the surprise ending of "The Sixth Sense."

That's a bit of a letdown, but "The Others" has enough other chills to keep viewers in a constant state of "delicious unease."

The film's story is set in 1945, with a young mother (**Nicole Kidman**) nervously awaiting the long-delayed return of her soldier-husband. To add to her problems, her son and daughter are suffering from an illness that makes it imperative for them not to be exposed to sunlight.

Thus, Kidman's character has set rule in her 15-room mansion: all doors have to be locked once a family member or servant leave a room, to make sure that no window is left open by mistake.

Yet another difficulty crops up when all of the servants leave without any warning. Left without househelp, Kidman has to post a want ad in a newspaper. Luckily, three servants answer the ad, so Kidman has the help she needs to run her home in the no-nonsense fashion to which she has become accustomed.

Little by little, however, Kidman notices that not everything is right with her new servants—or so she thinks. Are they really up to no good, or are her suspicions merely the latest inventions of her neurotic mind?

Indeed, Kidman comes across as a veritable anthology of neuroses. She gets even more hysterical when her children tell her that they've seen a family of ghosts in their house.

Soon enough, Kidman herself experiences some spooky encounters with the unwelcome visitors. That's why she's so thankful when her husband suddenly returns from the war.

But her happiness turns out to be short-lived, because her husband appears to have had the life punched out of him, and takes wearily to his bed almost as soon as he arrives—and, in a couple of days, he's gone.

Almost at the end of her rope, Kidman focuses on saving her children by doing everything she can to get the ghosts to leave. This is when the movie's big twist reveals itself, and both the film characters and the audience gets spooked out of their wits.

Of course, we can't tell you what the twist is, but it prompts everyone to reevaluate many of their initial assumptions regarding the true identity of the ghosts in the story.

The movie is a bit low and slow at times, but most of the time, director **Alejandro Amenabar**'s use of subtly menacing camerawork and editing keeps viewers psychologically off-balance and in a constant state of dread.

Kidman is a Maruei as the movie's highly-stressed and neurotic protagonist. The performance she turns in here is worlds apart from flashy, tragic vixen in "Moulin Rouge" solid proof of her remarkable range as an actress.

The child actors who play her children are similarly convincing and affecting in their roles, as is the mature actress who portrays their new nanny.

Some viewer may find "The Others" too small and slow, but we're glad we saw it because it has a new take on the sometimes stultified and stultifying conventions of the ghost movie.

Scriptwriting workshop

ACCLAIMED screenwriter **Ricky Lee** will conduct his 14th Scriptwriting Workshop for Film and TV for three consecutive Sundays (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) starting Feb. 17.

The workshop is free of charge and is open to everybody. However, it will be limited to only 40 participants. Registration is on Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the PEPE/PRESS office, No. 3 Road 1, Pag-asa, Q.C. Call 928-9557.

Swiss Film Week

TODAY, Feb. 8, is the last day of the Swiss Film Week at the UP Film Center, UP Diliman. The mini-festival opened last Tuesday, Feb. 5, with **Martin Rengel**'s Joy Ride."

The Swiss Film Week is a joint presentation of the Embassy of Switzerland and the UP Film Center. Call 926-3640 or 892-2051 loc. 120.

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2 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 KATE & LEOPOLD In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 VANILLA SKY In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 VANILLA SKY THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 FROM HELL In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 KATE & LEOPOLD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	3 BLACK HAWK DOWN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	4 MARSHALL DICK In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM Onstage	4 FROM HELL In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

The Ayala mall Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Events Ad Box
Week of Feb. 11-17, 2002

VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER

- Romancin' G4 at Glorietta 4 Park

Feb. 11 / 6 pm	Vina Morales
Feb. 12 / 6 pm	Side A

- Comedy Club at Greenbelt Mall

Feb. 12 / 7 pm	Jon Santos
Feb. 13 / 7 pm	John Lapuz

- Moonlight Serenade at Greenbelt 2

Feb. 14 / 7 pm	Ogie Alcasid
Feb. 15 / 7 pm	Ariel Rivera

Chinese New Year at the Glorietta Activity Center

Enjoy a Chinese food festival from Feb. 12 to 16, 2002 featuring sumptuos dishes as presented by the following hotels: Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati Shangri-la, New World Renaissance, Mandarin Oriental Manila and The Peninsula Manila.

ALABANG

ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS

Feb. 8-17
JO-LIZA FURNITURE FAIR
Activity Center

Feb. 10
APO HIKING SOCIETY & AGOT ISIDRO
VALENTINES DINNER SHOW - Town Plaza, 7 PM

Tickets available at ALMON MARINA, DELIFRANCE, DULCINEA, FAT TUESDAY, HERC'S & SAN MIG.

4 ticket holders will get a chance to win overnight stay for 2 at the MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL

Feb. 13 & 14
DRAGON-LION DANCE
Mallwide, 2 PM

For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2762

CEBU

CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002

Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)

USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)

Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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APO performs at ATC

ALABANG Town Center (ATC), the premier shopping and entertainment mall south of Manila, greets February with a series of activities to celebrate Valentine's Day and welcome the Chinese New Year.

On Feb. 10, join the Apo Hiking Society trio and Agot Isidro in a pre-Valentine dinner show at the Town Plaza.

Mall goers can dine al fresco and enjoy a sit-down menu for only P400 at Racks, San Mig, Dulcinea, Almon Marina, Delifrance, Herc's Pizza Pasta Presto and Fat Tuesday's.

They also get a chance to win an overnight stay for four at Mandarin Oriental Manila, with the "Romancing the Town" promo.

Visitors can catch a dragon dance around the mall on Feb. 13 and 14, 2 p.m., as ATC welcomes the Year of the Horse.

On Feb. 16 and 17, ATC brings "young love" to the mall with its Valentine's Fair.

Pido With Take One serenade mall goers on Feb. 16, 7 p.m.

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ALEJANDRO
lee robin SALAZAR
michael WILLIAMS
with bernardo BERNARDO and tin ARNALDO
music BACHARACH
lyrics DAVID
book SIMON
SAMSON
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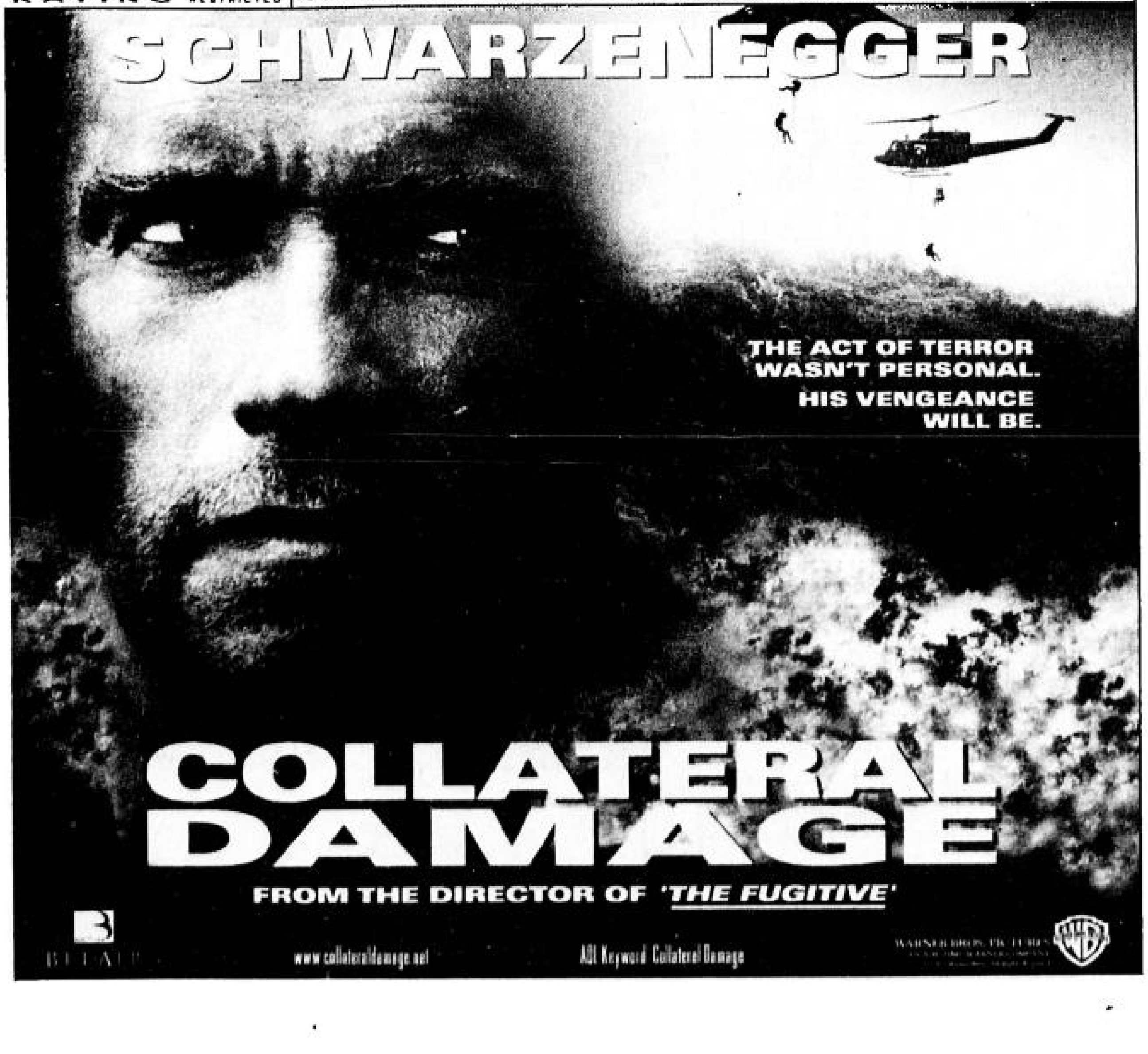
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RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ

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lahat may kabuluhan.
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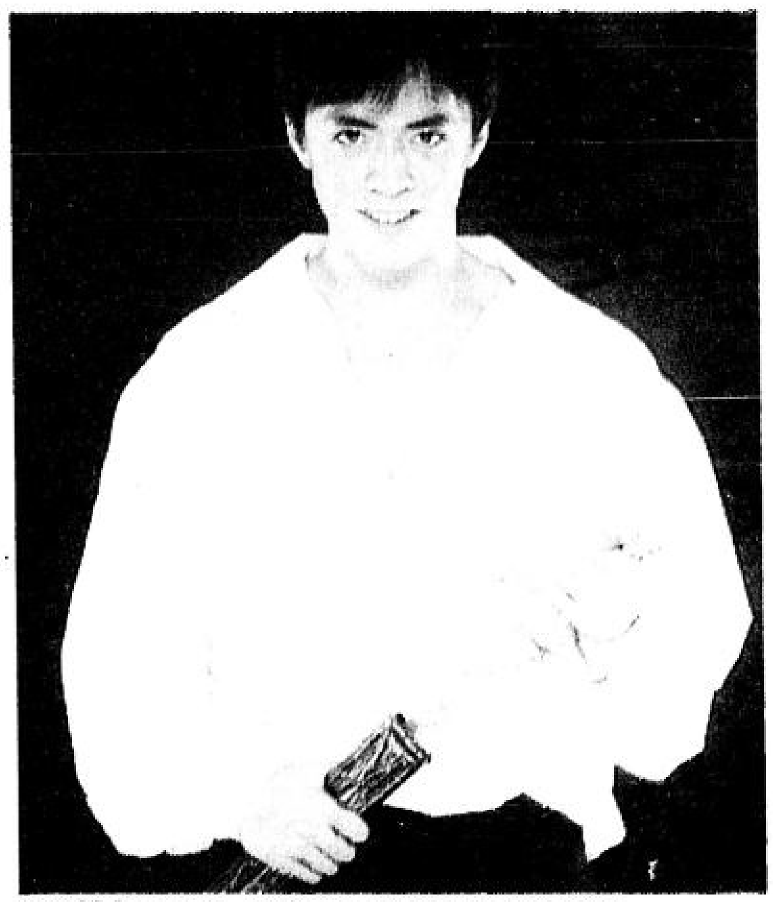
Ikaw Lamang
Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
directed by YAM LARANAS
Rexona
Nestle
VIVA FILMS
NGAYONG FEB. 13!

This Lance does a modern 'Romeo' onstage

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio



LANCE Raymundo, not just Rannie's younger brother.

LANCE Raymundo does not mind if he is tagged as the younger brother of **Rannie Raymundo**.

"He's my idol," says Lance of Rannie. "He's very talented. But as I got older, I realized I also want to prove something to myself."

While Rannie has made a name for himself in the local entertainment, Lance has been slowly inching his way out of the shadow of his more popular brother. The younger Raymundo also wants to carve a niche for himself in the local entertainment scene.

Surprisingly, it has taken years for Lance to follow in Rannie's footsteps. Even if Rannie was recording albums, charting hits and performing here and abroad, Lance was hardly interested in what his elder brother did. Music was farthest from his mind then.

"It was nothing I saw myself doing one day," Lance discloses. "When Rannie entered the business, I didn't know if I had the talent to sing. There was nothing musical about me. I was into sports at that time."

A BS Biology major from UP Manila, Lance initially wanted to become a doctor.

"But I found out medicine was not my calling," he says.

He took a business course on the side, with the hope of being like his father, **Nilo**, who is a businessman. Eventually, Lance was able to put to good use his business course.

"I am now into the trade business which I put up using the privileges of my dad," he grants.

When Lance got into modeling with Levi's, he got a feel of how it was to be in the limelight.

In June 1998, he asked his mom, former actress **Nina Zaldua**, to give him a Yamaha keyboard for his birthday.

"The keyboard took my fancy and I was so excited when I got it," recalls Lance, the youngest of two children. "I found out I could play oido. That same night, I composed two songs and recorded in karaoke. That week, I wrote 14 songs.

"I wanted Rannie to sing the vocals but he was in Cebu, so I tried singing it. It was a revelation for me that I could sing, write songs and play the keyboards. It was a gift I discovered."

Lance's flair for music went on for a year. "The first week that I discovered my talent was my most productive," he says. "Some of the songs I composed then are now in my solo album. In 1999, I told myself, wait a minute, why don't I try to be a singer."

Lance was undaunted with his singing venture. Armed with his demo tape, he set up an appointment with Viva Records' **Ricky del Rosario** without telling the latter that he is Rannie's younger brother.

"When I submitted the tape to him, he told me to wait since he would listen to my songs," Lance shares. "But I was persistent. I told him to listen to the tape that very minute because I wanted to see his reaction.

"Perhaps he was amused by my persistence. He gave me a contract on the spot. When I got home that day, I showed the contract to my parents and they were so surprised how I got it."

Even in getting a manager, Lance was short of "harassing" **Angie Magbanua**, who also handles the career of Rannie, to give him a contract.

It wasn't long after he signed up a management contract with Angie that Lance recorded his self-titled debut album. He is thankful to Viva Records for giving him full creative license and artistic control to complete the album, produced by **Mon Espia**.

Born **Reggie Ramon**, after his father's CB call sign, Lance's show biz name was given by his manager.

"Rannie was named after Prince Rainier," Angie explains. "Then I thought, if the older brother is a 'prince,' the younger one should be a grand knight, so I thought of Lancelot. Now, even Rannie calls him Lance."

Lance attests there's no sibling rivalry between him and Rannie.

"We were brought up in such a way that we always support each other," he says. "The success of one is also your success. Our eight-year age gap helps that we're not really compared.

"(Rannie) is my *kuya*. He is very patient with me. We never fought even if I was the craziest kid brother anyone can ever have."

Lance counts Prince as his musical influence. He has more than 200 albums of Prince, most of which were unreleased. Some of the albums were bought directly from Prince through the Internet, while some were from friends who returned from trips abroad.

"Liking him is almost like liking 17 different musicians because he plays different musical genres," says Lance who also idolizes **Joni Mitchell**, **Carly Simon** and **Stevie Wonder**.

After releasing his debut album last year, Lance gets another big break in his career. He stars as the sexy, dashing and lovable Elizabethan heartthrob in Bulwagang Gantimpala's production of **William Shakespeare**'s "Romeo and Juliet."

Playing Juliet is **Adriana Agcaoili**. The supporting cast includes **Bodjie Pascua**, **Bonggoy Manahan**, **Mia Gutierrez**, **Miguel Vasquez** and **Linda Lupton**. **Jun Flavier Pablo** directs. The play will have a special gala performance at 8 tonight at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo.

Lance considers it both a challenge and a dream come true to play Romeo onstage.

"When I was in Cebu before, I saw **Franco Zeffirelli**'s 'Romeo and Juliet' on Cinemax, with **Leonard Whiting** and **Olivia Hussey**," he shares. "That very moment, I wanted to be Romeo. It became a dream role for me.

"Angie was in Guam then. When she got back, she told me if I wanted to audition for Bulwagang Gantimpala's 'Romeo and Juliet.' I was dumbfounded."

When director Jun Pablo saw Lance during the audition, the former immediately told him, " I think you're Romeo."

Lance does a modern approach to Romeo. Although it shocked him when he was made to wear tights as part of his costume, Lance brings out the character's sensuality and charm, thus turning Romeo into a real charmer.

The script of "Romeo and Juliet" was as thick as a phone book when it was given to Lance. But on the first week of rehearsals, he impressed the more veteran theater artists when he dropped-script while rehearsing.

"This is a challenge for me," says Lance of his role. "I dreamt of this role and when I got it, I really put my heart and soul into it."

He started onstage last Jan. 11 and was booked for 26 shows instead of the usual eight performances.

"For every show we do, we always have more than a thousand students in the audience," he beams.

Lance, however, is not merely acting for "Romeo and Juliet."

"The play inspired me so much that when I found out they needed help for the (medieval) music, I offered to do it," he says.

Lance dreams big, but he is in no hurry to get to the top even after getting the good breaks early on in his career.

"I'm patient and realistic," he says. "I know it takes time. I was impatient when I started, but I guess it worked for me. Now I learned the value of patience and determination, the importance of having confidence in yourself and belief in God.

He adds, "I want to be a respected name in the industry and be known for my music. I want to have my own niche. I dream of the day when people will hear my songs and they'll know from the first note that it's mine."

More dynamic shows on AXN

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINO action program lovers can look forward to more fast-paced and dynamic action and adventure entertainment this year with the new programs lined up by AXN Asia, the first action-adventure cable channel subsidiary in the region.

Leading the list of new programs is Jerry Bruckheimer's ("Con Air," "The Rock," "Pearl Harbor") "Crime Scene Investigation," an avant garde series that challenges the viewers to solve the crime in tandem with the investigators.

The series got rave reviews in the United States, making CSI one of the most popular series in the AXN line up. The second season will premiere in April.

Also in the offing is the new series "The Agency," by renowned film director Wolfgang Petersen ("Air Force One," "In the Line of Fire"), which takes a close look at the inner workings of the Central Intelligence Agency and its network of intelligence agents.

Another program is "Queen of Swords," which will debut in April. The series, which is similar to the "Zorro" adventures, is about a young Spanish aristocrat, Tessa Alvarado, who returns to her birthplace after the death of her father. She is the one woman who dares defy the tyrants who rule her home as the Queen of Swords — freedom fighter.

Ricky Ow, AXN vice president for advertising sales and marketing, said in an interview that AXN also expected the Philippine market to support these programs as Filipinos have shown their preference for good action and adventure programs.

This explains in part the popularity of adventure series such as "Survivor." This will be followed up this year by programs such as "Eco-Challenge New Zealand," "No Boundaries" and "Fear Factor."

AXN was first aired in the Philippines in 1997 and was included in the SkyCable channel line up last year.

Ow says the Philippines may not be the biggest market for AXN, but it is definitely one of the most passionate.

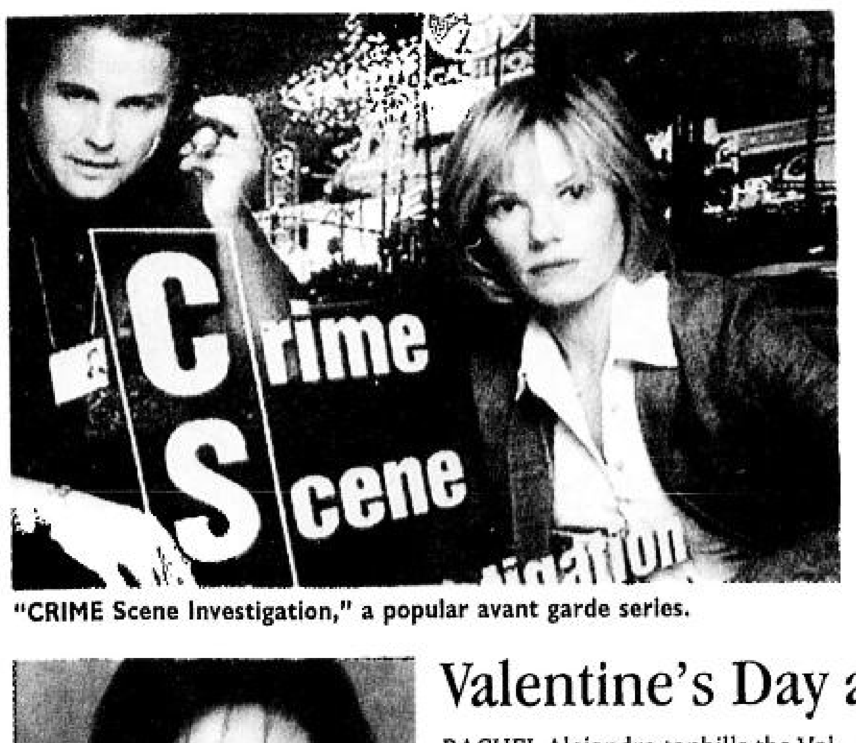
"Filipinos turn in the most response to us either through e-mail or through the website. They really let us know if there is something that they like or don't like with our programming," Ow explains.

Ow says the Filipino viewers' response to AXN influenced the cable channel's decision to hold the next AXN challenge in Manila, where people from around the world will go through some of the experiences of the people in the TV programs.

"This is our way of bringing the TV program to the ground," he says.

According to Ow, their efforts are aimed at raising the viewership of the AXN network by over 30 percent across Asia, including the Philippines.

AXN Asia is available to more than 31 million households in countries such as the Philippines, Taiwan, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea.



"CRIME Scene Investigation," a popular avant garde series.

Valentine's Day at Alegria Lounge

ALEJANDRO

RACHEL Alejandro topbills the Valentine show, "Just a Touch of Love," Feb. 14 at the Alegria Lounge, Holiday Inn Manila.

The show veers away from the typical "romantic evening of songs" and instead presents a repertoire of upbeat tunes, Broadway and OPM songs, plus classics.

One of the show's highlights is the performance of Rachel's special guest, the equally versatile performer, former Circus Band member Hajji Alejandro who is her dad.

Aside from his spot numbers, Hajji will render duets with his daughter.

Tickets are priced at P1,200, P800 and P500. Show starts at 9 p.m.

For ticket inquiries, call Paula (0919-8494697), Noemi (0917-3499498/741-0725), Elaine (0919-2513673), Joy (821-6486) or visit any Ticketnet Outlet (all SM branches).

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A 'blast' with Side A and Freestyle in concert tour

By Leah Salterio

"IT WILL be a blast. It will be exciting!"

This is what the members of today's hottest bands—Side A and Freestyle—assure the audience in their first-ever back-to-back concert tour.

The series of shows will kick off Feb. 8 and 9 at the Araneta Coliseum, to be followed by performances at the Cebu City Sports Center on Feb. 16 and at the Freedom Ring Ampitheater in Clarkfield, Pampanga on Feb. 23.

The idea for Side A to do a back-to-back show with Freestyle was brought up middle of last year. However, it didn't push through since both bands had calendars filled with gigs not only in Manila but also in the provinces. They also did their respective US concert tours, so bringing them together onstage seemed far-fetched.

When Freestyle decided to sign up with Side A manager Wyngard Tracy late last year, the back-to-back concert proved to be more feasible. And there couldn't have been a more opportune time to bring them together than in a pre-Valentine gig.

"We're excited," says Side A drummer Ernie Severino. "Freestyle is the hottest band on the scene today and we'll get to share the stage with them."

The Araneta shows have reportedly been sold out, so concert producer Maxi-Media International is said to be thinking of mounting an additional night, to accommodate more fans who want to watch the show.

Side A keyboardist Naldy Gonzales and Freestyle's Nikki Cabardo are the musical directors, who also lined up the repertoire for the show.

"Side A will get to sing Freestyle hits and vice versa," Naldy says. "We'll do songs of Jennifer Lopez and popular R&B hits. We can't play those tunes if we're not performing with them."

The two bands will also jam in a medley of love songs to keep up with the Valentine theme.

"Even the instrumentalists will get to sing this time," says Side A bassist Joey Benin.

Other Side A members are vocalist Joey Generoso and lead guitarist Kelly Badon.

Freestyle is composed of frontliners Christopher "Top" Suzara and Jinky Vidal, with Gerald Banzon, Carlo Tapia and Tat Suzara.

Side A and Freestyle are two of the bands who have emerged victorious among the rest and have redefined phenomenal success in its truest sense.

Their respective careers attest to the fact that more than just plain luck, it's sheer talent and enduring mass appeal that make wonders for every artist who want to carve a niche in the local entertainment scene.

Both Side A and Freestyle have enjoyed success not only in the live concert scene but also in recording. They have charted countless hit and have amassed multi-platinum record awards. They have also performed in packed big concert arenas here and abroad.

The Big Dome is a venue which is not alien to Side A and Freestyle. Both bands have staged well-received, if not sold-out shows there.

"But every time we go up onstage, we still get the jitters," Ernie says.

BACK-TO-BACK at the Big Dome for the first time—Side A and Freestyle.

"It's never the same for every performance," Top points out. "We are always anxious whether we could fill up the venue or not. This one is not any different. But we're keeping our fingers crossed that this one will be more successful than our previous shows because Side A will perform with us."

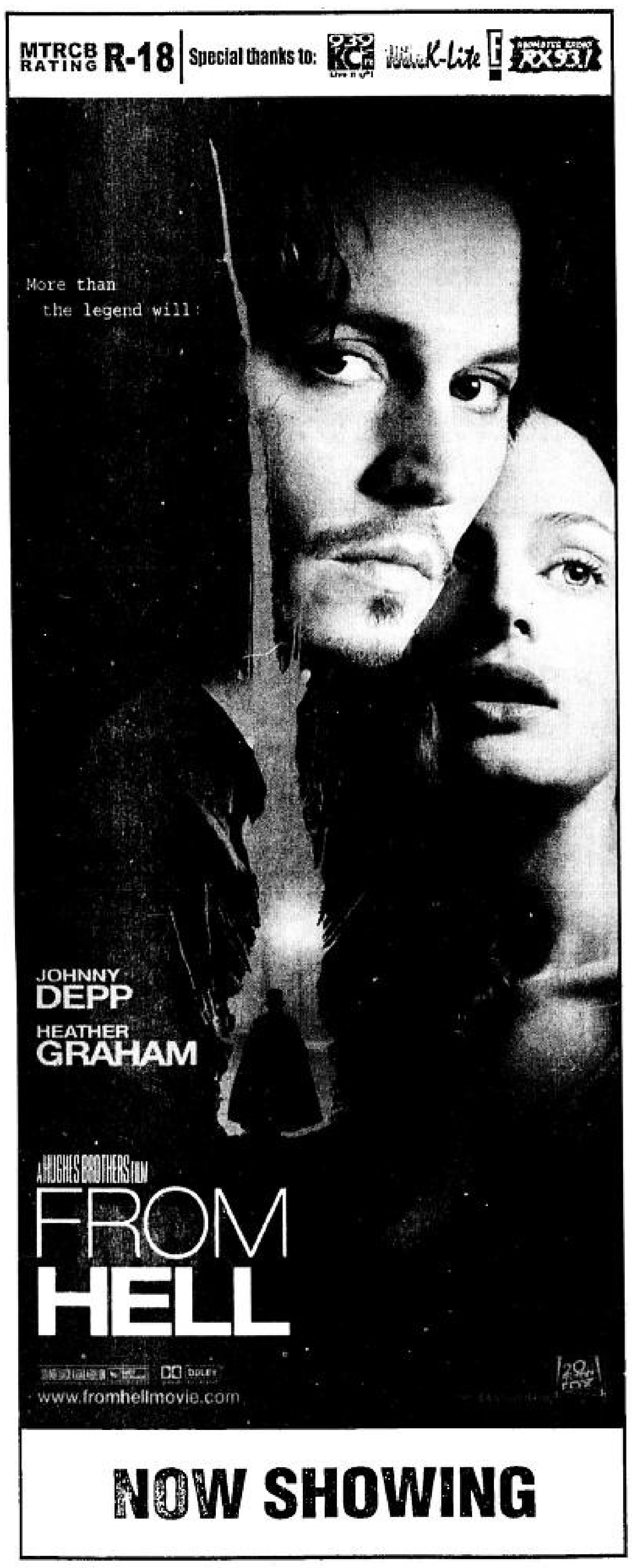
The bands' regular gigs—Freestyle at Hard Rock and 8th Day and Side A at Suburbia—have to take a backseat while they prepare for their major concert.

But performing has been an effortless shtick for the band members, especially for the Side A quintet who has been in the music scene for 16 years now.

"It's like I can't breathe if I stop playing," Ernie says. "I love and enjoy performing with the group."

Joey Benin adds, "There should be no time frame if you enjoy what you do. We just go with the flow. It's a natural thing for us and I believe it shows when we perform."

Top, meanwhile, maintains: "There's no point in staying together if you're no longer happy. Music and spirit have to be there."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FROM HELL - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	MARSHALL DICK - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10	VANILLA SKY - R 18 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10

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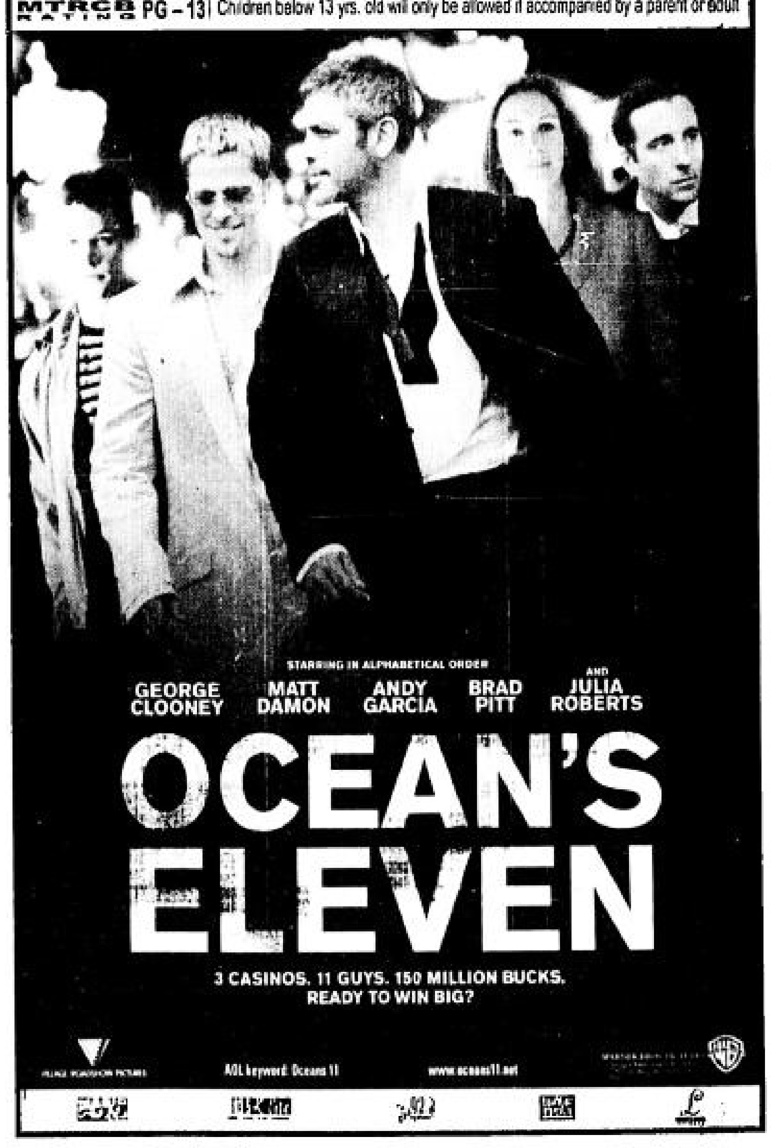

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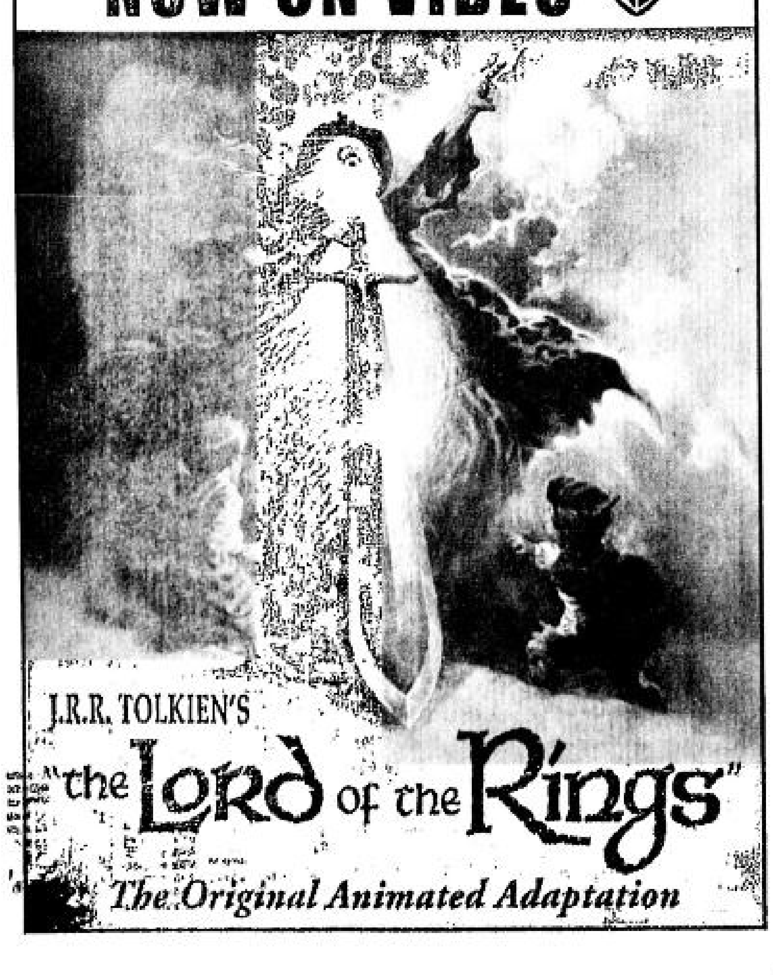

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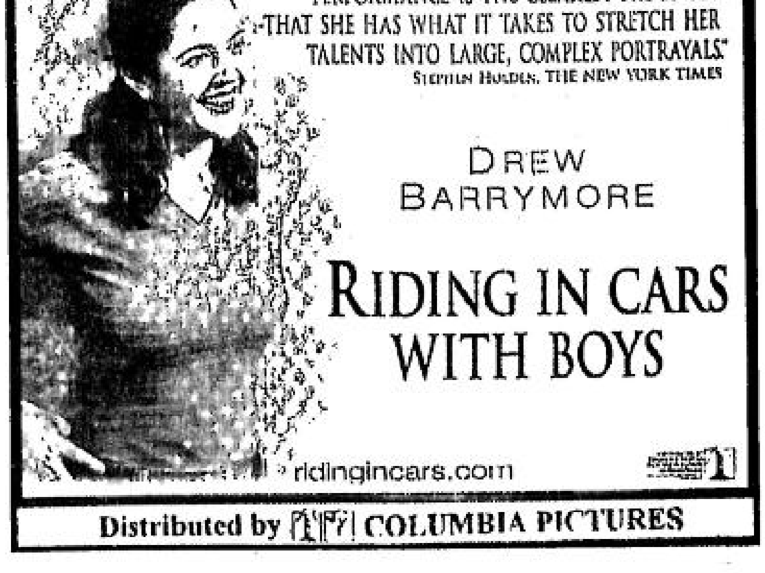

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Bras, beef and spaghetti sauce

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I learned something new recently. For more years than I care to admit, I'd been wearing the wrong bra size! Something tells me that my mistake is a pretty common one. If you've had unsightly bulges above or below your bra line, specifically in your back, or if you've had chafing and redness where your bra's garter lies, or if you've felt discomfort at the end of the day, especially when you feel like removing your bra will make you breathe better, then you've been committing the same mistake I was.

It was while going over the latest Victoria's Secret catalog that I finally took time to read carefully their sizing chart. All along I've been wearing a 34B, when I should have been wearing a 36A for lightly padded underwire bras, and a 36B for foam or gel-filled underwire push-up bras, the latest Victoria's Secret offering aptly named the "Very Sexy Miracle Maximizer" or the original "Wonderbra."

Here's how to know your correct bra size. Wearing what is at present your most comfortable bra, measure your under bust. This is the bony area right below your breast. If your under bust measures from 26-27 inches, you're a 32. If it's 28-29 inches, you're a 34, an under bust measuring 30-32 inches like mine is a 36, and if it's 32-33 inches, you're a 38.

Cup size becomes a bit more complicated. Generally, a 5 to 6-inch difference between your under bust and your top bust, which is the area where your breasts are fullest, means you're a cup A. A 6 to 7-inch difference means you're a cup B. An 8-inch difference means you're in "sex bomb" territory or you're a cup C, and from 8-9 inches means you're D cup.

To make it clearer, I'll bravely reveal some of my vital statistics. My under bust measures 31 inches and my top bust measures 37.5 inches. That's a 6.5-inch difference. That's why in certain styles, I really could still fit into a cup A, and for others, I am more comfortable in a cup B.

Take the time to really try on your bras in the department stores' fitting rooms. After all, we patiently try on our shoes and sandals to make sure we have a great fit, so why not do the same for our intimate apparel? Although there's a formula that Bra Size Charts advice, you really have to feel and see for yourself what's most comfortable, supportive, and enhancing for you and your figure. Watch out for crinkled tip edges in your bra. That means you can't quite fill the bra's cup. If your breast is spilling over the side of the bra near your underarm area, that's an indication that the cup size is too small.

Another thing I've seen in cooking shows, and in cooking demos of some celebrity guests in my previous talk shows, but which I have not tried at home is "rendering." This technique allows your beef and pork, especially if you're using ground beef or pork, to cook itself in it's own oil, so that the meats' fat and juices to seep out. This supposedly brings out the meats' true essence.

Whenever I'd make meat sauce for **Josh**'s spaghetti or lasagna, I'd heat olive oil and then sauté the garlic and onion (in Filipino, *pang-gisa*). When the onion is translucent, that's the only time I'd brown my one kilo of beef mixed with half-kilo of pork. Last week I decided to experiment and see if "rendering" really does bring out meats' flavor. I also wanted to test a new non-stick, heavy-duty pot I'd just bought.

I made sure that the pot was already very hot before I added my meat mixture. The oil from the meat mixture did start seeping out especially after the meat had begun to brown. When the meat was almost completely cooked I noticed that my cook must have bought pretty lean ground beef, most likely ground round, because there wasn't that much oil. I took out the cooked meat, set it aside and added three tablespoons of olive oil to the meat's oil. In the same pot I browned my garlic and onion, and then put back the cooked meat. I proceeded to cook my usual tomato-based meat sauce.

'Harry Potter' makes magic with $45-million DVD blitz

THE MAGIC of Harry Potter is set to bewitch homes in an unprecedented $45-million video and DVD marketing blitz, aimed at cashing in on the success of the fourth biggest grossing film in history.

Warner Home Video on Wednesday said it will release "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on DVD on May 28 in the United States, followed immediately by other international markets including Europe and Asia.

"The release will cost $25 million in the United States and a further $20 million in Europe, which makes it by far the biggest media spending campaign in our history," said WHV's Pamela Godfrey.

The $25 million earmarked for marketing the fantasy flick as home entertainment in North America is twice the amount WHV spent on the promotion of "Batman," its most expensive home release to date.

The film chronicles the adventures of a British boy wizard and his pals when they enter the eerie Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The movie was released in November and immediately broke a string of box office records.

The picture soon became the highest box office grosser of 2001 and now ranks as the fourth best performer in terms of global ticket sales in the history of US cinema.

The film adaptation of Scottish author J.K. Rowling's fantasy books is the first in a series of three. It sparked a global Harry Potter social phenomenon, as well as intense criticism of the film's themes by some religious groups.

AFP

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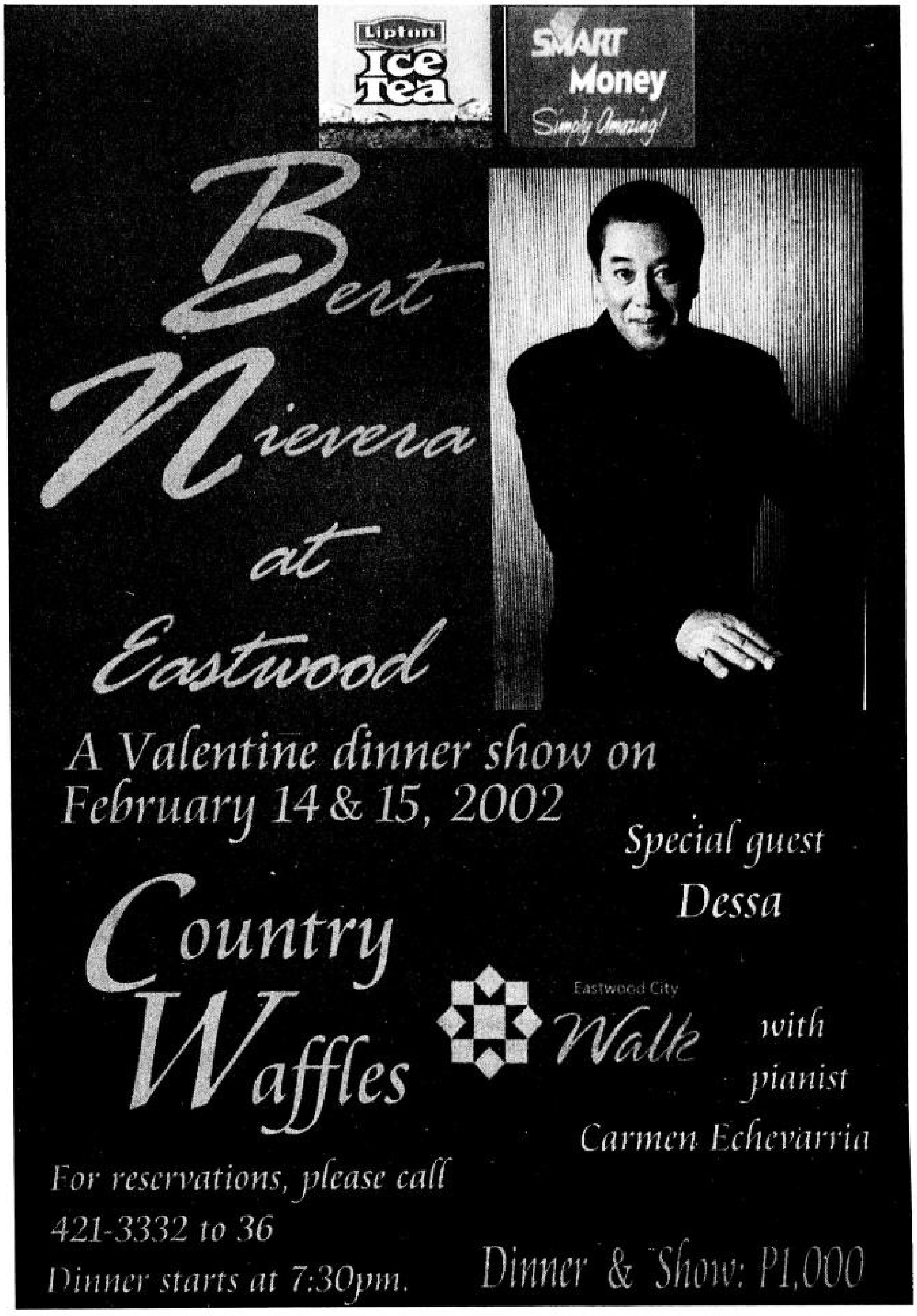

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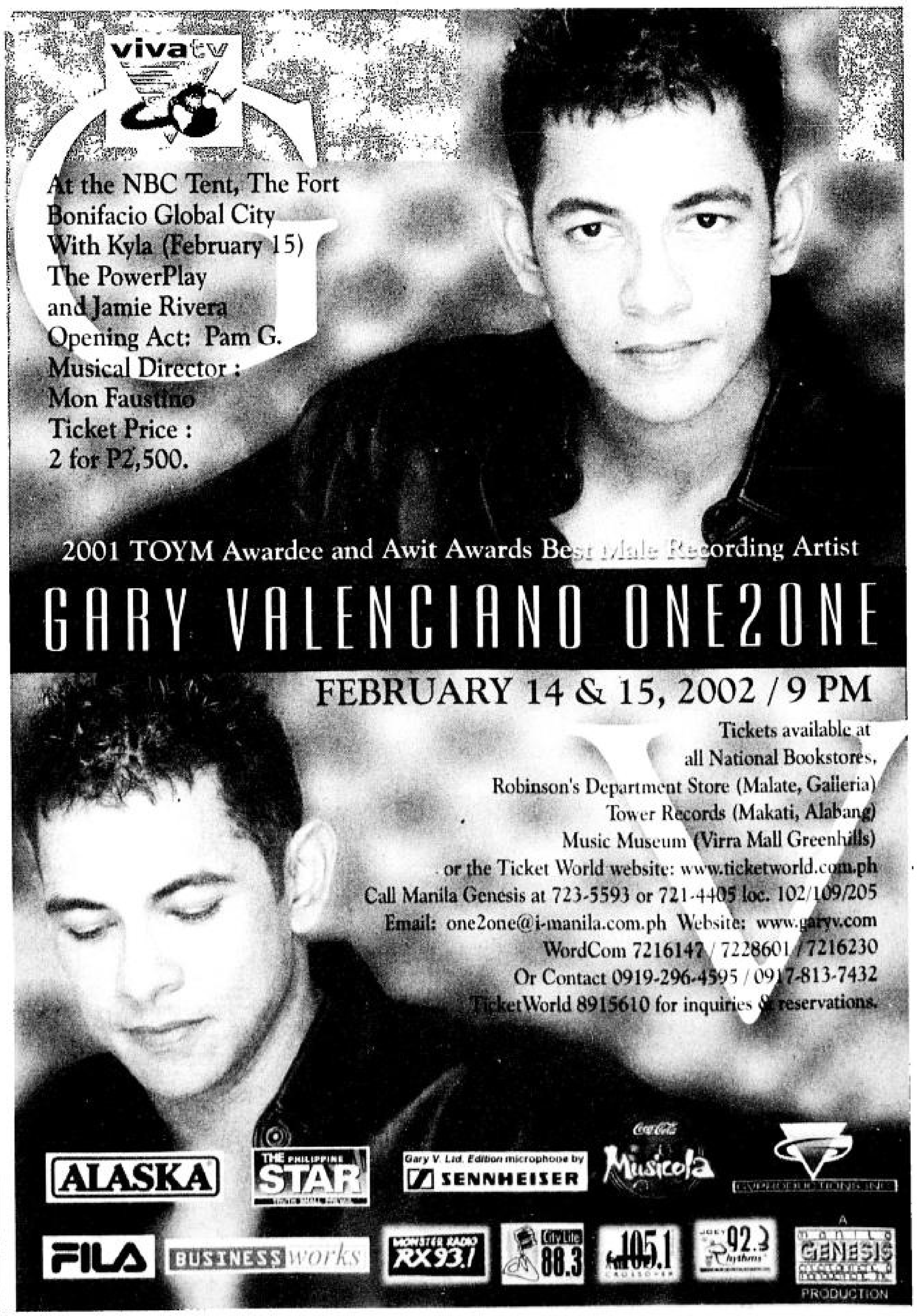

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To redisplay the clue, key in SHOW and send to 234.

To check your raffle entries, key in POINTS and send to 234.

The mystery tone of the day will be updated at 12 midnight daily.

Only subscribers with ringtone-download-capable handsets will be able to hear the mystery tone of the day. However, downloading is necessary to get the multiple choice set of ringtone titles. A subscriber without the necessary handset can still answer based on the clue and multiple choice set of ringtone titles.

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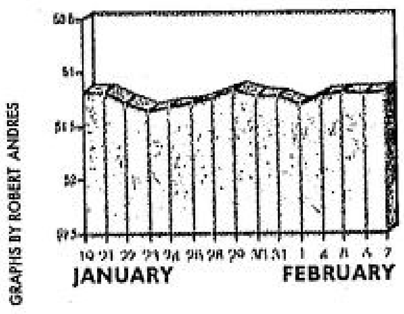

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STOCK MARKET

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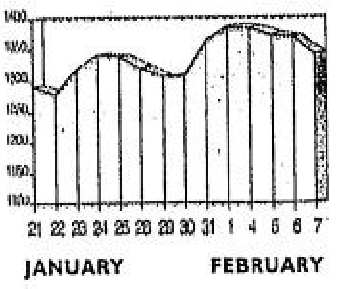

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares fall 2%

SHARE prices fell 2 percent yesterday as investors punished property scrip Filinvest Land Inc. over a planned $23.4-million convertible bond issue, brokers said.

"The market was really waiting for a reason for a correction. When it started with Filinvest, it sort of snowballed into other blue chips and some secondliners," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 27.54 points to close at 1,339.94.

Turnover rose to P907 million shares worth P737 million from 826 million shares worth P630 million on Wednesday.

Filinvest gave up 32 centavos, a plunge of more than 14 percent, to close at P1.94.

AFP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it was willing to borrow the remaining $750 million in foreign funding requirements of the state-owned National Power Corp. if investors would continue to charge the power firm with prohibitive rates.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the government was evaluating several proposals either for Napocor or for the sovereign debt.

"If it makes economic sense and if a direct Napocor borrowing would be substantially more expensive, the government would consider borrowing for them," the finance secretary said.

Napocor canceled a $500-million, seven-year bond issue last week after investors sought a return that would be almost a percentage point higher than the national government's borrowing.

Camacho said "timing and questions on the structure" of the deal were the factors that made the rates for the Napocor borrowing more expensive.

The government is reportedly preparing to go back to the global bond market to issue at least $400 million worth of seven- or 10-year bonds. The proceeds would be used to help finance this year's P130-billion budget deficit or for relending to Napocor.

Camacho, however, denied that the government was already considering to tap the global bond market again after completing a $750-million flotation in the middle of January.

"There is no pressure but we are constantly reviewing proposals. Napocor itself has been receiving proposals. The government has raised sufficient funds for now," he noted.

Sources said the government had started talking with financial groups to determine whether this was the best time to go back to the global bond market following the decision of Moody's Investors Service the other day to revise its outlook for the Philippines from negative to stable.

The Philippine government still has $450 million worth of unused securities registered in the United States. Of a total $1.2 billion in registered securities, the government has used up $750 million.

JP Morgan Chase had announced in Singapore that it had gotten a mandate to handle another batch of Philippine government borrowings, fueling talks in the market that a $400-million bond issue would be pursued soon.

Camacho said the investment bank had retracted its statement. "I don't think anything would happen in the next few weeks as we approach the Chinese New Year," the finance secretary said.

Still, a treasury official from a local bank noted that spreads on Philippine borrowings had tightened further after the Moody's announcement that it was lifting its negative outlook on the Philippines on the back of an improved political and economic environment.

Camacho says early US rebound to boost RP economy

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the economy should take off this year after confirming with foreign experts in New York that the US economy had started to recover much faster than Philippine economic leaders thought.

Camacho expressed confidence that the Philippines could easily meet its targets for 2002 and this achievement should further boost the confidence of foreign investors.

Investors sentiment was already bolstered by the revision of Moody's outlook from negative to stable, the better-than-expected 3.4-percent growth in the economy last year, historic lows in inflation and interest rates, the oversubscribed $750-million global bond issue, and the recovery of the stock market, the finance chief noted.

"We are in a good position for an economic takeoff in 2002," he said.

Camacho said he met with a panel of international advisers while in New York where he attended the World Economic Forum. He said the group believed that the United States has started to rebound much earlier than expected because the recession was not as deep as projected.

He said this was a signal that the potentials of the Philippine economy have also improved. "This should have a positive impact on our economy, particularly to our exports."

Almost half of the country's exports are shipped to the United States and Japan and the earnings from exports account for more than 30 percent of the country's gross domestic product, the main barometer of economic performance.

"Our chances of achieving the macroeconomic target now are certainly better. When we decided on the targets, we expected that the recovery of the US economy would happen only in the second half of the year," Camacho explained.

This year, the government is targeting to register a GDP growth of 4 to 4.5 percent despite a flat growth in exports. Inflation should be contained within a range of 5 to 6 percent, while domestic interest rates should average between 10 and 11 percent.

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Colony Capital to invest in RP

GLOBAL investment group Colony Capital LLC is interested in investing in the non-performing loans and real estate assets of the local commercial banking system, Colony Capital chair and CEO Thomas J. Barrack Jr. told President Macapagal-Arroyo during a courtesy call in Malacañang on Wednesday.

The government can win the confidence of foreign investors by seriously addressing the banks' NPL restructuring problem, Barrack said, adding that he has been impressed by Ms Macapagal's accomplishments as reflected in a better-than-expected gross domestic product growth in 2001 and attempts to pass new regulations and legislation to improve the local banking sector.

"With Colony's proven track record and expertise in the management of bank's non-performing loans and assets worldwide, we are looking at the prospect of being able to participate in the financial restructuring of the NPLs of Philippine banks," he said.

Colony Capital is one of America's largest acquirers and financiers of real estate-related assets. It has invested in a wide range of property, corporate and portfolio transactions worldwide amounting to nearly $8 billion.Colony Capital is a shareholder of local property giant Megaworld Corp.

CURRENCIES

Feb. 07, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.152206	1.000000	51.2120
Japan	Yen	0.008621	0.007482	0.3832
United Kingdom	Pound	0.475400	0.412600	21.1301
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147730	0.128215	6.5661
Switzerland	Franc	0.679568	0.589797	30.2047
Canada	Dollar	0.718064	0.623208	31.9157
Singapore	Dollar	0.629106	0.546001	27.9618
Australia	Dollar	0.585768	0.508388	26.0356
Bahrain	Dinar	3.056413	2.652661	135.8481
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.307255	0.266667	13.6566
Brunei	Dollar	0.626369	0.543626	27.8402
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026222	0.022758	1.1655
UAE	Dirham	0.313782	0.272331	13.9466
Korea	Won	0.000881	0.000765	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.867900	44.4469
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.303253	0.263193	13.4786
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032996	0.028637	1.4666

DISCLOSURES

THE LISTING of 68,840 common shares of **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** is set on Feb. 8. This brings the number of common shares listed arising from the conversion of additional 68,840 series V cumulative convertible preferred shares to a total of 427,254 common shares.

* * *

THE LISTING of 240,000 PDRs of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.** as represented by PDR Certificate Nos. 1072 and 1073 is set on Feb. 8. This brings the number of PDRs listed arising from the exchange of the said shares to a total of 267,827,900 PDRs.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank said the basis for the reduction of losses in 2001 to P4.5 billion versus P5.97 billion loss in the previous year was due to the reversal of valuation reserves already booked, after the **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** reduced the valuation reserves for fully secured loans classified as substandard from 25 percent to 10 percent, as well as to improved management.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. will have its company briefing on year 2001 fourth quarter financial results on Feb. 15, 2 p.m., at the Jollibee-Libis corner Greenmeadows Avenue. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. approved on Feb. 6 the issuance of P1.06-billion worth of fixed rate corporate notes. It has appointed **HSBC Ltd.** as the arranger.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. bought a total of 2,000 common shares at P2.75 per common share. This is in connection with its approved buy-back of shares. ***Compiled by Armin P.Adina, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, February 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	1,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort.	90	100	90	100	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67	66.5	66.5	161,300
China Banking Corp.	560	560	560	560	1 600
Citystate Savings Bank	14	14	14	14	26,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27.5	26.5	26.5	440,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	207	207	203	205	122,540
Philippine National Bank	78	78	75	75	23,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	13,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	18.75	17.25	18.75	64,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	17.75	18	426,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	8,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1315	1345	1315	1345	4,370
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1035	1050	1035	1050	16,510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	32	32	8,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	5,880,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	770	760	760	19,780
Ipeople Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	40,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	2,000,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.44	7,070,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	505	490	495	245,820
Ivantage Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.021	136,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	26	26	58,600
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	38.5	37	37	874,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.76	10,471,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	2.8	2.9	1,292,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	280,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	11,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	6,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	457,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	46,200
RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.38	1.38	4,038,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	177,800
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	61.5	61.5	315,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5	5	5	55,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	150,000
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	1,347,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	1,435,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	1,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	320,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	147,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.7	0.74	35,540,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.41	3,790,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	6,220,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.095	0.1	506,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	0.94	0.95	1,012,000
F&J Prince Hldgs. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	120,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	30	30	28.5	28.5	501,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.175	0.175	2,470,000
Ionics Inc.	8.6	8.6	8	8	135,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.78	200,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1	1	1	1	10,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1	1	1	1	30,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	56,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.83	1,630,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	11,530,000
Music Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,150,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	310,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	60,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	830,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	520,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	1,420,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	860,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	34	34	30	30	129,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	710	710	710	710	5,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	5,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	93,000,000
PNB Warrants	25	25	25	25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	155,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	22,161,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	420,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.25	6,160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	3,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.3	10,410,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	115,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.1	1.86	1.94	70,444,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
City & Land Developers	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	270,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.4	6.6	4,835,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0775	0.0775	0.075	0.075	500,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.54	1.8	1.54	1.8	37,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.035	35,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.235	0.22	0.22	10,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	4,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	6,130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.3	7,590,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	7,100,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	16,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	6,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000

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The usual cows

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IF witch-hunting senators and columnists want an idea as to who among the Philippine big business have been tapped to contribute to the PR fund to help boost the country's and GMA's image in the United States, a special supplement that recently appeared in The New York Times should provide some clues.

The tabloid-sized supplement, which appeared in the greater New York edition of the Times on Dec. 27, 2001, had ads placed by the Semiconductor & Electronic Industries of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, Equicom Systems Management, Mirant Philippines, Federal Express, Bench, Bases Conversion Development Authority, The Peninsula Manila, Del Monte Philippine Laguna Technopark, Asiatown IT Park, Te' Pacific, WG&A, iBank, Transnational L .sified Group, PBCom, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Pasar, RCBC and Banco de Oro

The advertising supplement was produced by Summit Communications, ironically the same PR agency that was also commissioned by the Estrada administration in time for the Erap visit to New York in 1999.

Such supplements, along with supermarket coupons, are a regular feature of the Times, and are usually resorted to by Third World countries hoping to buy media consciousness in the media capital of the world.

Are they effective? Do they get to be read?

As to answers to such issues, we share the opinion of the late American merchant John Wanamaker, who said, "I know that half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; but I can never find out which half."

In this case, the money would have been better spent inviting and hosting select travel/opinion writers to the country or, more to the pressing issue, raising bounty money against the Abu Sayyaf and other kidnap gangs.

Copa and pedophilia

SHOULD you and your kids be checking in at the Baguio Country Club one of these days, be warned that there is a pedophilia suspect roaming the club grounds.

Cocktales cannot fully discuss the details since there is a pending criminal case against the suspect, a BCC supervisor, being heard by the Baguio Regional Trial Court.

But what is amazing is that the suspect is still employed by the club despite the case being the third complaint filed against the alleged child molester.

Worse, the suspect was found intoxicated when arrested by the police and brought to Baguio General Hospital for a blood/breath test; the suspect denied having fondled the wailing boy, saying, in his defense, that he was "drunk" at that time, according to the incensed father of the child.

Apparently, BCC could not fire the suspect, for dismissing the officer would be tantamount to an admission and make the club vulnerable to civil damages.

BCC, incidentally, has social activist Tingting Cojuangco heading its board of advisers. Cojuangco, who writes a column on parenting, is joined by fellow Copa activist Triccie Cepeda-Sison, who heads another BCC committee, on beautification.

Competitive jolt

SHOPWISE has inadvertently struck back on neighboring Uniwide, which it suspects as having twice ripped off the Shopwise opening banners posted along C-5, when confetti in yesterday's opening ceremonies of Shopwise Libis tripped off a power line.

The power line just happens to connect with Uniwide, whose warehouse suffered hours-long power failure as a result of the accident.

Heard through the grapevine

BANKER Edward Go is likely to bring in fellow ex-Citibanker Diosdado Salvador as chief operating officer of Cocobank when Go finally assumes the CEO position of the sequestered bank.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Customs seen limiting use of bonded warehouses

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BUREAU of Customs is seriously considering a proposal to limit the use of customs bonded warehouses to the semiconductor industry, a top official of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said on Wednesday.

The PCCI official said the customs bureau was studying this move to check the illegal diversion to the local market of raw materials and semi-processed goods meant for re-export.

Unscrupulous businessmen have reportedly been using customs bonded warehouses as a backdoor to bring in their factory inputs without paying taxes.

These warehouses, according to the PCCI, have become one of the biggest smuggling gateways in the country because of the government's inability to monitor the flow of goods going in and out of these special depots.

A variety of goods pass through these warehouses, which currently number 708, with more than half inactive.

The PCCI official said customs officials were hoping that it would be easier to monitor only semiconductor products in their warehouses rather than a vast array of goods ranging from textiles to chemicals to agriculture commodities.

He added that apart from limiting the eligible products that may be brought into customs bonded warehouses, the customs bureau is also planning to trim their number by revoking the licenses of inactive users.

He said the customs bureau was reviewing Customs Administrative Order 2-91 and Customs Memorandum Order 39-91 that laid down the rules and regulations governing establishment, supervision and control of customs bonded warehouses in response to mounting complaints from business groups.

Call centers seek incentives

By Elena R. Torrijos

LOCAL call center companies will ask the Board of Investments for some fiscal and non-fiscal incentives given the industry's contribution in generating jobs and in bringing foreign investments into the country.

In a statement, Jose Ferreros, president of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP), said the incentives would give the industry more opportunity to expand and further help the local economy.

Among the incentives the industry is aiming to obtain are tax credits, income tax holidays and tax deductions. CCAP also hopes to be included in the investment priorities plan of the BOI.

"We will be lobbying for incentives from the BOI. The industry is unique in a way that you don't need to have very large capital to establish the business compared with other businesses. The average cost per work station is about $10,000 to $12,000," said Ferreros. "But the good thing about this is that it is very labor intensive. About 80 percent of the total cost of a contact center company is labor-related."

He said CCAP alone, which has 13 members at present, employed 30,000 to 40,000 people.

The local contact center industry is expected to grow by as much as $864 million by 2004 with the expected influx of foreign clients in the next two years. Ferreros also expressed confidence that the industry will get the incentives from the government.

"In the IT plan of the BOI, the government has put a premium on the job generation and revenue potential of an industry, not just the amount of initial investments it puts in," the CCAP chief said. He added the revenue potential of call or so-called contact center firms was enormous since almost every business has been outsourcing many of their services.

Contact centers operating in the Philippines are looking at tapping the outsourcing market in Japan, touted to be the biggest outsourcing market outside of the United States and some countries in Europe. "Everybody's looking at the United States, but Japan is one big potential market," he said.

"Of course, tapping this market will require further training of employees in the Japanese language. But one thing about Filipinos is that they can easily be trained."

CCAP is composed of 13 corporate members such as All Asia Customer Services Inc., Ambergis Solutions, C3 Customer Contact Center Inc., Contact World, CQuadrant, Easycall Communications Philippines Inc., eTelecare International, Experts Direct Communications, Immequire, People Support, Pilipinas Teleserv Inc. Qinteraction Philippines Inc. and Sykes.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RODOLFO V. BARADAS was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 136; Page No. 28; Series of 2002 under Notary Public Atty. Tomas Boquiron.
(PDI-Jan 25, Feb. 1&8, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROBERTO N. BLANCO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc 422 Page 85 Book XIII Series of 2001 Elcid Fajardo Notary Public (PDI-Jan. 25, Feb. 1, & 8 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICISIMO R. VILLAMARIN has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc 484 Page 77 Book XIII Series of 2001 Elcid Fajardo Notary Public (PDI-Jan. 25 , Feb. 1 & 8 2002)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

One (1) Year Term Contract for Brokerage Services and for the Preparation, Notarization and Documentation of Import Entry Declaration (IED) from May 1, 2002 to May 1, 2003 with the following Pre-bid and Bid Opening schedules:

SCHEDULE	PRE-BID Date/Time	BID OPENING Date/Time
SCHEDULE I - Air	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/10:00 AM
SCHEDULE II - Ocean	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/2:00 PM
SCHEDULE III - IED	March 22, 2002/2:00 PM	April 4, 2002/3:00 PM

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above schedules which shall be opened publicly at the Warehousing, Traffic, Transshipment and Disposal Section (WTTDS), NL-GENCO-2, National Power Corporation, 4th Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Eligibility documents will be issued from Feb. 11-22, 2002 at WTTDS office upon presentation & submission of a Letter of Intent, Certification of Government registration and Customs Brokers License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility documents, forms & statement shall be on Feb. 27, 2002, up to 5:00 PM only (official time is WTTDS clock).

Bid documents are available for eligible bidders on Mar.11-15, 2002 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule, presentation of valid Certificate of Eligibility, and NPC Supplier's number (DCE). Deadline of submission of bid documents shall be not later than 10:00 AM (official time is WTTDS clock) of April 4, 2002.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

All inquiries regarding the above should be addressed in writing to the undersigned at National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Bldg., 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City or at fax no. 074-445-4545.

(Sgd.) ATTY. A. A. PADAEN
Manager, H.R. & Admin. Services Division
GENCO2

February 8 & 13, 2002 -- Inquirer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MENELAO MERCADO has been settled extrajudicially among his heirs per Doc 6 Page 2 Book II Series of 2002 Before Notary public Atty. Guillermo R. Viojan PTR 2847003 PDI 2/8,15,22,02

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that S2 Lic. No. 1118795R99 of Patricia V. Capino was lost.
(PDI-February 8, 2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) MJE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF A NOTARY PUBLIC
FOR THE CITY OF MANILA

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK,
Mortgagee,

-versus- FOR: Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135, as amended.

FREM Case No. 01-12-71

Sps. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO
and OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO,
Mortgagors.

x---x

NOTICE OF SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by **PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK**, mortgagee, against the mortgagors **Sps. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO and OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO**, with address at No. 3581 Magsaysay Arellano Street, Bacoor, Sta. Mesa, Manila, to satisfy the mortgaged indebtedness, in the total amount of **FOUR MILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN PESOS AND 71/100 (P4,169,977.71)** as of September 15, 2001, including principal, interest, penalty charges and attorney's fees but not including all legal fees and expenses for the foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Notary Public for the City of Manila will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION, to the highest bidder, FOR CASH and in Philippine Currency, on *March 18, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning*, or soon thereafter, *in front of the main entrance of the City Hall Building, Manila, facing Philippine Normal University*, the following described real estate property, together with all the buildings and improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
No. 235921

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 42, Block 1 of the subdivision plan Psd-23058, being a portion of Lot 3-J-3-B of the subdivision plan; Psd-20550, G.L.R.O. Rec. No. 7680), situated in the District of Sampaloc, City of Manila. Bounded on the NW., by Lot 41 Block 1 of the subdivision plan; on the NE., by Lot 3-J-1-A of plan Psd-20615, on the SE., by Lot 43, Block 1 of the subdivision plan; on the SW. by Street Lot 2 of the subdivision plan. Beginning xxx containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED FORTY FIVE SQUARE METERS AND SEVENTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (245.70)**, more or less."

Including the house/building and other improvements now erected or hereafter may be erected on the foregoing described torrens title/s.

This Notice of Sale will be posted for a period of twenty (20) days in three (3) of the most conspicuous public places where the subject property is located and in the City of Manila where the sale shall take place, and likewise, a copy will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks before the date of auction sale.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

City of Manila; January 31, 2002.

ULPIANO S. MADAMBA
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 0969420
Issued at Manila City
On January 08, 2002
IBP O.R. No. 545563
On January 08, 2002
Issued at Manila City

WARNING:

It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale, on or before the date of the auction sale under penalty of the law

COPY FURNISHED:

1. ATTY. SYLVIA M. MARFIL
   Room 2114, Herrera Tower
   98 Herrera Corner Valero Streets, Ayala North, City of Makati
2. SPS. MANGODA ALIP TAGORANAO
   and OMAIRA HAMID TAGORANAO
   No. 3581 Magsaysay Arellano Street, Bacoor, Sta. Mesa, Manila

(PDI - Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 2002)

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VICTOR ALSONG CLAMOR SR.

of Balanga, Bataan and Taganaan, Surigao Del Norte

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 6, 2002 at the age of 84.

He is survived by his loving wife **Rosario**; children **Victor**, **Rafael** and **Jesse**; daughters-in-law **Tita**, **Nell-Rose** and **Rina**; grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

His remains lie in state at Rimaville Subdivision, Ibayo, Balanga, Bataan.

Memorial service will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Capitol United Methodist Church, Balanga, Bataan. Interment will follow immediately at the Eternal Shrine Memorial Park.

(In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate donations to the building fund of Capitol United Methodist Church, Balanga, Bataan)

Ms. Eva Riyanti Hutapea,
President and CEO,
the Directors, Management
and Staff of Indofood Group
wish to extend their condolences
to Mr. M. V. Pangilinan and Family,
whose mother

MRS. SOLEDAD VELEZ PANGILINAN

passed away in the Grace
of our Lord on February 5, 2002
at the age of 80.

We offer our prayers for the
eternal repose of her soul.

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635-0220

".... the time has come for my departure... I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith..."
2 Timothy 4:6-7

CESAR KALAW ROXAS

Born on April 14, 1931

Joined the company of his Creator on February 7, 2002

His bereaved wife **Honey Guingona**; brother **Celso**; children **Howard**, **Tony**, **Liza**, **Marico**, **Rocky**, **Louie** & **Jun** and their spouses **Ditas**, **Edwin**, **Galo**, **Hope**, **Chato** & **Au**; grandchildren **Nico**, **Ingrid**, **Regina**, **Miguel**, **Nadine**, **Luigi** & **Bianca** and other relatives and friends request for your prayers.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C-1, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be announced later.

JOSEFINA MARTINEZ AQUINO

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 6, 2002 at the age of 68.

Her bereaved children **Gigi** and **Hagop**, **Annabelle** and **Napoleon**, **Bowie** and **Cynthia**, **Bing** and **Fernando**; grandchildren **Leanza**, **Nikki** and **Bea**; request the pious readers to offer a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Paul of the Cross Parish, SSS Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Interment will be announced later.

The family of the late

ZOSIMO H. RIVAS, JR.

who passed away on February 6, 2002 at the age of 66.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel C-14, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

Rest in peace, dear Litos

In Memoriam

30th Anniversary

Carlos Reyes y Alcántara

2 November 1941 - 8 February 1972
Son of **Erlinda** (†) & **Virgilio Sr.** (†)
Geologist, U.P. Class 1962

Masses will be said today, 8 February, at the following churches:

Remedios, Malate Church	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria della Strada	6:00 a.m.
St. Andrew's, Bel Air	6:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Lian, Batangas Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
U.P. Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice	6:00 a.m.

Your thoughts and prayers for him would be appreciated.

MARCOS "MARK" C. RAMIREZ

of Guimba, Nueva Ecija
formerly Asst. Regional Director, NAPOLCOM
Region 11, Davao City

Has peacefully joined our Creator on February 5, 2002

His bereaved wife and children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Friday, February 8, 2002 in Davao City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
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Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
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Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3084
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296, 826-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529, 522-6783, (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City, Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Tels. 372 5084, 410-9286-87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7848, 843-1801, 845-4838
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Irrigation Administration
Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Stage I
Midsayap, Cotabato
Telefax No. (06422) 98453

January 29, 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
(BID NO. MMIPL-C-22)

The National Irrigation Administration hereby invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and to participate in the sealed bidding of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project for the construction of the following canals at Upper Malitubog Service Area located in Pikit, Cotabato under the Local Minor Contract scheme:

Package No.	Name of Canal	Estimated Cost
I.	RMC-1 Sta. 2+660.33-3+700.33	P19,674,250.21
II.	RMC-1 Sta. 3+700.33-3+953.66 & Lateral A Station 0+000-3+180	P19,287,234.71
III.	Lateral A Sta. 3+180-7+277.61 & Lateral A-1 Station 0+000-2+980	P19,749,761.87
IV.	RMC-1 Sta. 3+953.66-5+537.66 & Lateral B Station 0+000-0+600	P19,761,277.79
V.	RMC-1 Sta. 5+537.66-7+837.66 & Lateral C Station 0+000-2+161.30	P19,527,892.94
VI.	RMC-1 Sta. 7+837.66-9+157.66 & Lateral D Station 0+000-1+405	P19,715,051.78
VII.	RMC-1 Sta. 9+157.66-9+717.66	P19,192,854.65
VIII.	RMC-1 Sta. 9+717.66-10+537.66	P19,677,150.49
IX.	RMC-1 Sta. 10+537.66-10+937.66	P19,726,751.86
X.	RMC-1 Sta. 10+937.66-11+917.66	P19,860,488.87

The application for pre-qualification is open to accredited and duly registered contractors with at least Medium "B" category in Irrigation and Flood Control classification. Pre-qualification forms are available at NIA MMIP Office, Midsayap, Cotabato upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **February 4, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of accomplished pre-qualification forms shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **February 15, 2002** at NIA MMIP Office. Bid documents shall be available to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per copy from **February 25, 2002** to **March 1, 2002** at the PBAC Technical Secretariat of same office.

Pre-bidding Conference regarding this contract will be held on **March 12, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Conference Room of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project, Midsayap, Cotabato. Submission and opening of bids will be held on **March 19, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the same address.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Agency.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines was able to secure a loan, Loan No. PH-P112, from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) formerly Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to finance the construction of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project.

(Sgd.) **NOLDIN S. OYOD**
OIC/Project Manager

(PDI - January 30, Feb. 4 & 8, 2002)

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORPORATION
S & L Building, 1500 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines
P.O. Box EA 169 Ermita 1000, Manila
Tel. Nos. 525-6271 to 80
Fax No. 525-6376

NOTICE OF BIDDING

FOR SALE AS SCRAP THROUGH SEALED BIDDING ON CASH "AS IS, WHERE IS," BASIS

PNOC LPG CARRIER
JOSEFA GABRIELA SILANG

LOA	60.50 M
LBP	55.50 M
BREADTH	10.00 M
DEPTH	4.60 M
DRAFT	4.07 M
GROSS TONNAGE	667.00
YEAR BUILT	1978
CLASSIFICATION	NKK

Above vessel now anchored at Mabini, Batangas.

Bid form can be secured from Management Services Department c/o Mr. Raoul Trinidad 7th Floor Room 718 of the same address at Tel. Nos. 525-9289 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 p.m. February 22, 2002** upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

A bidders deposit of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) in the form of cash, cashiers or managers check is required. Bid indicated should be inclusive of ten (10%) percent Value Added Tax (VAT).

PNOC-STC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality or infirmities found therein, or to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO**
Chairperson-Disposal Committee

(PDI - Feb 7 & 8, 2002)

INQUIRER TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cool idea

Q. Who invented the air conditioner?

A. In the summer of 1902, a printing company in Brooklyn, New York, was beset by distorted color printing because the hot, humid weather was causing the paper in the presses to change size. The task of finding a solution was taken up by Willis H. Carrier, a young engineer, who found that air retained less moisture at lower temperature. He designed a machine that blew air over chilled pipes and stabilized the amount of moisture. This system both cooled air and removed its humidity. The printing improved, and Carrier's idea became the basis of the home air conditioner.

For the Record. The Manila Hotel, designed by American architect William Parsons and inaugurated in 1912, was the first building in the Philippines with air conditioning. It was also the first hotel in Asia fitted with electric elevators.

Classified Odd. Not too long ago, the question of who owned a sago palm tree in Haruku, Indonesia, triggered a dispute between two men, a certain Mr. Djambi and a Mr. Hasnuddin. Rather than fight or go to court, they decided to go back to traditional Indonesian ways and have a little contest. The winner would get the precious palm tree. The contest rules were simple: Whoever could hold his breath underwater the longest would win. Watched by their fellow villagers, Messrs. Djambi and Hasnuddin weighed themselves down with stones, took two deep breaths, jumped into the river, and then held their breaths. Unfortunately, it was a tie... they both drowned.

WORD WATCH

Hinga : from the Malay *engah*, 'pant, breathe heavily.'

PDI -- February 8, 2002

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that the remaining volume of the imported yellow corn under the FY 2001 PL 480 Title 1 Program of the United States of America shall be pre-sold thru Sale thru Market Determined Pricing (SMDP).

All interested yellow corn users who intend to participate in the bidding should be guided by the following:

1. The volume shall be a maximum of 131,500 MT imported yellow corn, disport Manila and Subic.
2. The quality specification is US Yellow corn No. 2 in bulk.
3. The indicative price is set at P7.30/kilo for the commodity. However, offerors shall inform the NFA the point / mode of withdrawal whether:
   - a. **Ex-FOT bulk**
   - b. **Ex-FOT bagged**
   - c. **F.O. silo**
   - d. **FOW**
4. A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **February 11** and **18, 2002** and the bidding proper on **February 13** and **20, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Penthouse, 11th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
5. The bidding shall be open to all interested corn users.
6. A bid bond equivalent to 5% of total auction offered amount in the form of either cash/manager's/cashier's check/Letter of Credit (L/C) payable to NFA shall be required from interested bidders. The L/C shall be irrevocable at sight and valid for thirty (30) days.
7. The bidding for the 131,500 MT is subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth by the NFA. All interested bidders are required to secure the Terms and Conditions from the NFA at its Marketing Operations Department, 5th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
8. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.

For further inquiries, contact NFA-DMO at telephone numbers 712-15-72; 712-15-64; 712-19-28.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI--Feb. 8 & 9, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,600 MT (52,000 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. **Ex-Warehouse Php P22.50/kg or P1,125/bag**

on **February 13** and **February 20, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on February 11 and 18, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

- a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
- b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **February 8, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please call Tel. Nos. **712-1572** and **712-1708.**

Bidding documents will be available on **February 11, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 a.m. at NFA Boardroom on **February 18, 2002** and **February 20, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI - Feb. 8 & 9, 2002)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE of SLUDGE/WASTE OILS
Located at ENRON Compound, SBMA, Olongapo City
and at NPC Concepcion S/S, Mun. of Concepcion, Province of Tarlac

"AS IS WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL BASIS"

Date of Bidding: February 21, 2002

	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	QTY	Min. Bid Price
1	Sludge Diesel Fuel Oil, contained inside Stroage Tank # 1, approximately 54,522 liters, more or less Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost.	ENRON Compound, SBMA	1 Lot	P 281,878.74
2	Sludge Bunker Fuel Oil, contained inside Stroage Tank # 2 & 3, approximately 568.749 liters, more or less. Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost	ENRON Compound, SBMA	1 Lot	P1,774,496.88
3	Used Lube Oil, contained inside 67 standard steel drums, approximately 10,050 Liters, more or less. (Drums are included in the disposal/sale). Note: Actual volume will be the basis for Actual cost.	NPC Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac	1 Lot	P 20,100.00

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 AM on February 21, 2002 at the Warehouse Office - GenCo 2, National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City c/o Mr. Orlando C. Verano, Chief - WTTDS & Chairman, RAVC-GenCo 2 and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden.

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on February 20, 2002 at 2:00 PM at the Warehouse Office - GenCo 2, National Power Corporation, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

All bids must be submitted in two (2) Envelopes with the following:

First Envelope:

1. Proposal Bond Deposit in the form of Cash or Bank Manager's Check only equivalent to 10% of the total bid price or Three-Hundred-Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) whichever is higher.
2. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR) of the individual bidder or Financial Statement of the Company (2000 Original or BIR certified true copy);
3. Terms and Conditions of Bidding/Sale;
4. Bidder's Certification;
5. Bidder's Inspection Certificate duly signed by NPC Officer concerned;
6. For authorized representatives, original copy of Special Power of Attorney
7. DENR Accreditation for Waste Oil Recyclers, Truckers and/or Transporters. Original must be presented.

Second Envelope:

1. Bid Form fully accomplished and duly signed.

Additional information and Bid Forms at P100.00 per set may be secured from Ms. A. P. Salvador, Acting Property Officer at NPC FMD, Mexico, Pampanga and Mr. Al C. Plata, RAVC secretariat at NPC-NLRO, Warehouse/Traffic/Transshipment and Disposal Section, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City (Tel. Nos. 445-45-41 to 44 locals 217 & 239) c/o MR. ORLANDO C.VERANO. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms will be until 4:30 P.M., February 20, 2002.

Please note that the National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept any bid most advantageous to the interest of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A. A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & ADMIN. DIV.
& CHAIRMAN, RAMSUC-GENCO 2

February 8 & 9, 2002 -- Inquirer

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO THE 2002 NPC-GENCO2 INFO DISSEMINATION ON BIDDING

The National Power Corporation-GENCO2 wishes to invite all interested parties to attend the INFORMATION DISSEMINATION on Bidding and E.O. 262.

Participants : Suppliers for Materials and Supplies
Limited to 50 participants only
Date : February 18, 2002
8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Venue : Skyrise Hotel, Apartelle & Restaurant
No. 18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Near Lourdes Grotto

This occasion aims to focus on the different requirements in the submission of Eligibility and Bid/Tender Documents and E.O. 262, "Implementing Rules and Regulations Governing the Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Services by the National Government."

Only 50 participants will be admitted after payment of participation fee of P450.00 on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation fee is inclusive of snacks, lunch and hand-outs. Reservation is now being accepted.

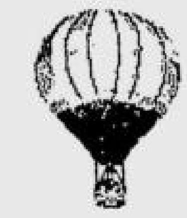
Questions related to the forum will be accepted via fax on or before February 12, 2002 at Tel. No. 074-4454545.

For registration/reservation, interested participants are advised to visit personally the Genco-2 Procurement Services Section office, 2nd Flr. Basement, Plaza Natalia Bldg., #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

(Sgd.) **J. C. HIDALGO**
CHAIRMAN, BAC
GENCO 2

February 8, 2002 -- Inquirer

Get your career off the ground.



JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

Sweet Nothings

This Valentine season, let the world know how much that special someone means to you by writing that heartfelt love note in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On February 14, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS** will publish personal ads dedicated especially to those you hold dearest to your heart at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P180** per column centimeter.

For more information, visit or call any **INQUIRER** branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

SAMPLE ADS

Iane,
There is a love that only you could give, a smile that only your face can show, a twinkle that can be seen only in your eyes and a life of mine that only you can fulfill.
I LOVE YOU!

always,
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P720 VAT exclusive

Happy Heart's Day Liz! You're God's greatest blessing – Tim

size: 3 lines
cost: P150 VAT exclusive

I love you Regin! Loving you is one of the best things I've ever done in my life. Happy Valentine's Day! – Mikaela

size: 4 lines
cost: P200 VAT exclusive

MAKATI (MAIN):
PASONG TAMO AVE., COR. YAGUE & MASCARDO STS. MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8808 loc. 514, 516
☎ 8972535 (Direct)
897-4808
main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

MAKATI BRANCH:
G/F, ATRIUM OF MAKATI, MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
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892-5578
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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MANDALUYONG:
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635-0220
sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

ALABANG:
ALABANG DESKTOP EXPRESS
MAKATI SUPERMART-ALABANG
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 850-6465

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Better dealership opportunities on PT&T's latest product

THE PHILIPPINE Telegraph and Telephone Company (PT&T) has introduced a new product line, the "Kabayan e-Kard," that offers attractive profit returns for prepaid card dealers.

The "Kabayan e-Kard" is a carry-all prepaid card available in various denominations for both the local and international markets. They will be distributed in all PT&T outlets and in selected stores in the Philippines, as well as in countries that have large Filipino communities.

These cards come as an added convenience for users of PT&T's "e-Sulat," another new and innovative product that the company also introduced just recently. e-Sulat is an IT-based messaging service that assures same-day-door-delivered e-mail for people who do not have their own personal computer units. It is scheduled for a soft launch this December and consumers can avail of the service by registering at www.e-sulat.com.ph.

PT&T chief executive officer Jose Luis Santiago pointed out that aside from competitive rates, dealers will be allowed to participate in various marketing plans to generate awareness and sales of e-Sulat. Co-branding and inclusion within the e-Sulat P.R. campaigns, he said, are other benefits that dealers can look forward to.

"International and local dealers will also be included in all advertising and promo campaigns," Santiago added, citing ad space within the e-Sulat website, and leafleting during e-Sulat deliveries as examples.

Santiago expressed confidence in the e-Sulat and encouraged all prepaid card dealers to carry the "Kabayan e-Kard." Johnny AirCargo, he added, just recently became their first international dealer.

"It is not everyday that one gets the chance to earn substantial income through guaranteed competitive profit margins, and to get free advertising through participation in marketing and promotional plans. This is an ideal business opportunity," Santiago stressed.

Interested parties may call or visit their nearest PT&T branches and "Click & Call" Centers.

BIGGEST ISP IN NORTHERN LUZON JOINS ETPI

Angelo C. Molato (second from left) Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc. (ETPI) chief operating officer shakes hands with Dagupan-based Bitstop Computers president Wilson L. Chua after signing an Internet peering agreement through Eastern Telecoms' Manila Internet Exchange (MIX) facility. The arrangement practically interconnects a large portion of the Internet network in northern Luzon to the fast growing Internet network in Metro Manila. This significantly improves the speed of Internet traffic from the province to the metropolis. Witnessing the event are ETPI vice president and Internet business unit head Joevel F. Rivera (seated, extreme left) and ETPI group product manager Cindy P. Salaya. Eastern Telecoms is one of the biggest carrier ISPs in the country. The company is a major provider of wholesale Internet bandwidth to ISPs. It is also the pioneer and market leader in broadband Internet access services covering the business districts of Makati, Ortigas, Manila and Parañaque.

RSC RECOGNIZES TRADE PARTNERS OF 2001

Robinsons Supermarket Corp. honored its outstanding trade partners for 2001 in an awards night held recently at the Limits Entertainment Hall in Ortigas. The occasion was attended by top RSC officials and officers and representatives of its trade partners from Manila. Hosted by the country's top VJs KC Montero and Shannen Torres, the event was highlighted by the awarding of plaques and trophies to the winners of the big suppliers and medium and small suppliers categories. The best three for the big suppliers category were Nestle Philippines, Unilever Philippines, and Mead Johnson Nutritionals. Winners in the medium and small suppliers category are Del Monte Philippines, Nestle, ICCPD-FDS, and Monde-Nissin Corp. Top winners were chosen and recognized for their consistent remarkable business performance, valuable trade support and commendable service to RSC. Shown are representatives of Monde-Nissin with Robinsons Inc. SVP Robina Gokongwei-Pe (right) and RSC FVP and general manager Ronnie Ong (left).

A kitchen dream machine from Cuisinart

THIS KITCHEN dream machine deserves a place on top of your wish list.

The first thing you'll notice about the brand new Cuisinart Compact Food Processor/Juicer, or the LPP Little Pro Plus (priced at P4,390) is its compact size. Yet it is powerful enough to knead dough with ease. With an unlimited slicing/shredding capacity on a 3-cup work bowl and a wide feed tube, this processor is perfect for anybody's kitchen. A stainless steel chopping blade, slicing and shredding disc, citrus juicer attachment with three sizes of juice cones, chute attachment for continuous slicing and shredding, are also included.

The LPP will expertly execute the simplest tasks—beautifully chopping a handful of parsley or a few cloves of garlic—and is designed for those who frequently cook and bake from scratch.

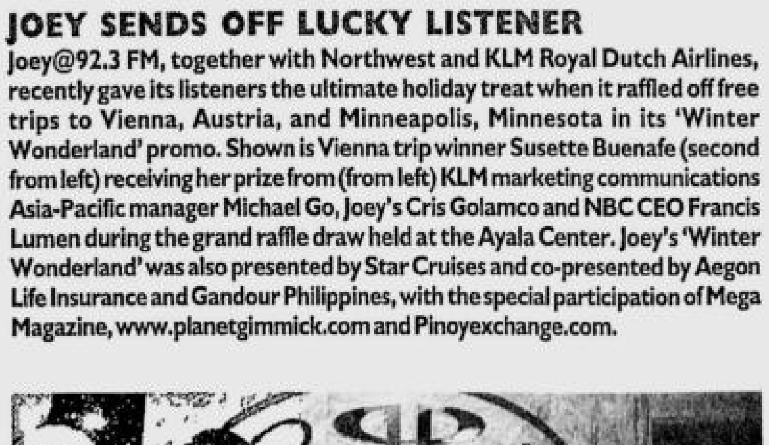
The Cuisinart LPP is available at leading department stores and appliance stores. For buying information call JERM Marketing Inc. at 838-1631/32 or 838-5305.

BATO BALANI CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Bato Balani, the No. 1 Science Magazine for high school students in the country recently celebrated its 20th year anniversary by hosting a dinner for the delegates of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) Congress at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu. A highlight of the occasion was the recognition given to the Most Valued Partner Schools. They are St. Louis School of Mandaue, Paco Catholic School, Our Lady of Sacred Heart Academy (N. Ecija), St. Joseph's School (Zambales), Cainta Catholic School, Notre Dame of Cotabato For Girls, Columban College (Zambales), Pateros Catholic School, Colegio de San Agustin and La Salle Greenhills and Bato Balani Loyalty Awardees (La Sallete of Santiago, Colegio de San Jose, Sacred Heart College, Assumption College of Davao, Ateneo de Zamboanga, St. Jude Catholic School, St. Louis Center, Assumption Iloilo, St. Joseph High School and St. John's Institute). Shown in the photo are (extreme left) Diwa EVP Amada J. Javellana, the Most Valued Partner School Awardees and Diwa president Saturnina G. Belen Jr. (extreme right).

JOEY SENDS OFF LUCKY LISTENER

Joey@92.3 FM, together with Northwest and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, recently gave its listeners the ultimate holiday treat when it raffled off free trips to Vienna, Austria, and Minneapolis, Minnesota in its 'Winter Wonderland' promo. Shown is Vienna trip winner Susette Buenafe (second from left) receiving her prize from (from left) KLM marketing communications Asia-Pacific manager Michael Go, Joey's Cris Golamco and NBC CEO Francis Lumen during the grand raffle draw held at the Ayala Center. Joey's 'Winter Wonderland' was also presented by Star Cruises and co-presented by Aegon Life Insurance and Gandour Philippines, with the special participation of Mega Magazine, www.planetgimmick.com and Pinoyexchange.com.



PARK PLACE HOTEL NOW GARWOOD PARK

The former Park Place Hotel was officially renamed Garwood Park Hotel recently. Although managed by Garwood Hotel Corp., Garwood Park Hotel Cebu will still be manned by the same management and staff. Guests will also continue to enjoy the same efficiency and service they are used to at the former Park Place Hotel. The greatest advantage of Garwood Park Hotel is its proximity, located at the heart of uptown Cebu, right in front of the historic Fuente Osmeña Park. For the unveiling of its new name, Garwood Park Hotel was joined by several friends and clients. Shown is Bogo Mayor Tining Martinez congratulating Garwood Park Hotel chair Cora Garwood and president Ruel Villanueva during the unveiling ceremony. Call Garwood Park Hotel at its Manila office at Unit 2005, 20th floor, Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, at 687-7725, 687-7495, or fax 687-7496. The Cebu office is at Fuente Osmeña, Cebu City, with telephone numbers (032)253-1131, or fax (032)253-0118.

F&B festival at Robinsons

PHILTRADE Exhibits brings the country's best regional delicacies as the Food and Beverage Fair at the second floor (near Auntie Annes) of Robinsons Place Manila is ongoing until Feb. 16. Featured are different delicacies from Pangasinan, Bicol, Iloilo, Quezon, and special condiments, traditional sweets, candies and biscuits made by Filipino entrepreneurs from the SME level. The fair is open to the public and admission is free. For details, call 820-7879 or 820-1570.

BITS 'n' Clips

La Salle's Job Expo 2002

DE LA Salle University-Manila is holding its annual job fair dubbed "Job Expo 2002" until Feb. 8 at the Sports Plaza, with about 100 companies from various industries participating. Organized by the Office of Career Services (OCS), the job fair expects to record an average daily recruitment of 50 applicants. Among the participating companies are Accenture, PGI/Unocal, Union Bank, NEC Telecom, United Laboratories, Security Bank, E-Telecare, Pilipinas Shell, Procter & Gamble, L'Oreal Philippines, Petron Corp., Kraft Foods Phils., Dole Asia, PLDT, Lexmark, People Support Phils., International Exchange Bank, Soluziona Phils., Intel Phils., Solid Cement, Sunlife Asset Management, Unilever Phils. and Volvo.

Unilever's World Press Photo 2001

AS IT celebrates its 75th year in the country, Unilever Philippines, makers of home and personal care products, together with the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, opened the World Press Photo Exhibit 2001 in simple ceremonies held at the Met Museum along Roxas Boulevard. The World Press Photo is an independent non-profit organization founded in the Netherlands in 1955. Its main aim is to support and promote internationally the work of professional press photographers. The exhibit runs until Feb. 16. For more inquiries, call the Metropolitan Museum at 523-7855.

ArtPetron winners stage exhibit

TO BRING art to more people and promote appreciation for images on canvass, two first place winners in the Watercolor Category of the first ArtPetron National Art Competition for Students, Romeo R. Forbes, Jr. and Yveese J. Belen, will showcase their winning paintings and masterpieces in a special exhibit "Harana" to be held on Feb. 9 at Gallery Nine, fourth floor of Building A of SM Megamall in Edsa. The two students will display their most recent artworks on matters of the heart this Valentine season.

PSLIS 3-day Baguio seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) Inc. will conduct a three-day seminar-workshop on strategic collection management and information access at the Safari Lodge, 191 Leonard Wood Road, 2600 Baguio City from Feb. 14 to 16. The objectives of this seminar-workshop are: to apply new techniques for an efficient database management of information documents; to encourage the preservation and archiving of information in digital format; to provide the participants with the necessary indexing and cataloguing skills as a tool to organize library collections; and to encourage the application of IT innovation to restore and retrieve in a timely manner the desired information. For inquiries call Lyn (724-1994); Lily (929-2180); Lito (839-1450); Medy (897-8808 local 329); Joven (527-9672); or Beth (932-1295).

CFS seminars on marketing

CFS Continental technology offers the following seminars: "Prospecting and Creative Approach in Marketing" (Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)—a one-day workshop designed to fulfill growth targets through the technique of gathering names of prospects and tips on starting the conversation; "Time Restructuring At Work" (March 14, 9 a.m. to 12 noon)—live life with a maximized time and minimized stress while performing at peak levels at the workplace in this three-hour seminar; "Strategic Decision-Making At Work" (March 14, 1-5 p.m.). This seminar focuses on how to arrive at a decision that counts. Call 8232358 or 8234825.

UPOU accepting for SY 2002-2003

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), the constituent unit of the University of the Philippines System which offers courses by distance education to people of all ages, of varied interests, of different learning styles and from different places, accepts applications to its program offerings for the school year 2002-2003. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 15 for those intending to take up the Associate in Arts and the Master of Public Management programs. For all other courses, the deadline for submission is on March 30. For more information, send your inquiries to the UPOU information office, Los Baños, Laguna at (049)536-6001/6002, local 710, or e-mail ou_staff@laguna.net. Interested students may also visit www.upou.org, where application and recommendation forms can be downloaded.

Cainta Jaycees induction, reunion

THE JUNIOR Chamber of Cainta Inc. (Cainta Jaycees) recently held its 31st induction and turnover ceremonies and reunion at the Astoria Plaza Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Guest speaker was Cainta Jaycee past president and JCI senator Dr. Alberto Fenix, Jr. Inducted were Ricardo Magno, Jr., president; Ruben Bulaong, immediate past president; Jennifer Gatchalian, VP-external; Rhoan Tudela, VP-internal; Akira Lopez, secretary; Celine de Leon, treasurer; Rommel Roque, Tony Sanchez, Jasper Espares, Harold Santos, Edmon Pascual and Joseph Lajom, directors. Inducting the new set of officers was national vice president for Metro South Region Anton Sheker and national executive vice president for Area II Jaygee Puzon. In the same occasion, the chapter also celebrated its 30th anniversary with a reunion attended by past presidents led by charter president Manny Duldulao and the announcement of nominees of Cainta Jaycees for the Jaycee senatorship.

SJNHS '76 reunion

BATCH '76 of San Jose National High School are invited to attend the reunion on March 30, Saturday, at 2 p.m. The reunion will take place at the OMNC Gym, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. For inquiries, call Ferdie Mercene at (043)491-1987; Res Caabay at (632)893-4324/861-3361; Henry Ruizol at 0919-6422265; Marilyn Naoe at (632)837-6093/0918-5522696; Danny Martinez (043)491-1352; Au Pulgar (043)491-1579; and Pat Loja (043)491-1109.

PCC alumni association 'walk'

The Pasig Catholic College Alumni Association Inc. in cooperation with the Pasig City government and the Immaculate Conception Parish, announces the holding of a "Lakad-Alay" or people's walk and an "Alay sa Kalikasan" tree planting activity on Sunday, Feb. 10. The mass hike, which starts at 5 a.m. at the Eusebio Quadrangle, Pasig City Hall Complex, ends at the Rain Forest Park in Maybunga, Pasig where tree planting will follow. The association is launching this event to raise a P5-million trust fund for the benefit of the less-privileged.

Pespa meets for 2002

DECS Secretary Raul S. Roco has approved the Philippine Elementary School Principals Association's (Pespa) forthcoming meets at Region VIII on Feb. 6; Region VI on Oct. 23, and Region IV on Feb. 8, 2003. Dr. Teresita V. Arriola, Pespa president, said "these activities are being undertaken in various regions of the country to continuously update, train and develop school managers. Pespa has over 9,000 members.

Philcemcor says cement tariff is 'puny' after all

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT'S punitive tariffs on cement imports have turned out to be puny after all, as imports from Indonesia, Japan and Thailand continue to flood the country despite an additional tariff of P20.60 per bag imposed in December.

The Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. has reported that roughly 128,000 metric tons of cement have been shipped to the country in less than two months after the imposition of the punitive duties.

Philcemcor said while punitive duties succeeded in stopping imports from Taiwan, the main target of the organization's anti-dumping petition, imports from other countries have increased substantially, with Indonesia taking the No. 1 spot as the biggest exporter of cement to the Philippines.

Philcemcor cited the surge in Thailand imports—32,000 metric tons since December—was significant considering that the last time it shipped to the country was over four years ago.

The group said cement exporters found the punitive duties negligible considering the urgent need to unload their excess capacityz.

Philcemcor noted that cement exporters had very huge excess capacity—Thailand, 32.9 million metric tons; Indonesia, 26.6 metric tons; and, Japan, 15.6 metric tons—that could more than fill up the Philippines' total market of 11.9 metric tons.

Civic groups and local officials in three major provinces earlier asked the Tariff Commission to put in place quota restrictions that will provide the local cement industry with relief against dumping.

Priests, school principals, lawmakers, mayors and barangay officials said in separate letters to the Tariff Commission that the economies of Bulacan, Davao and La Union will suffer if the cement companies that they are hosting are forced to shut down.

SEC nod needed before PSE can extend trading

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has reminded the Philippine Stock Exchange that it will have to approve first an amendment in the PSE's rules before the local bourse can extend its trading hours.

The SEC said in a letter to the PSE that under Section 40.3 of the Securities Regulation Code, the PSE must first submit for the SEC's approval the changes it intends to make to extend its trading hours.

The stock exchange is aiming to extend its trading hours beginning Feb. 12 to take advantage of improving investor confidence and in time for the start of the Chinese New Year of the Horse, which is generally associated with success.

PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was now putting the necessary backroom and clearing facilities to allow afternoon trading and that the forthcoming Chinese New Year was a "doable" target.

"It's a good date to target. Some people believe in good fortune with the New Year, and I'm optimistic, but not absolutely sure, that the backroom concern would have been settled by then," Leung said.

A. Brown companies OK merger

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOLDING firm A. Brown Co. Inc. is set to merge its operations with five of its subsidiaries in line with its corporate restructuring to cope with the difficult economic environment.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the company said it would submit to its shareholders a proposal to merge with Another Brown Co. Inc. (formerly W. Brown Co. Inc.), North Mindanao Mining Corp., Geoex Drilling Corp., NorPhil Properties Inc. and Manresa Golf and Country Club.

The consolidation is seen to lower the costs of operations of its various businesses. ABCI is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of chemical formulations and consumer products; property development and agribusiness.

The company, which was incorporated in 1992 and debuted on the PSE in 1994, was formerly known as Epic Holdings Corp.

Its core subsidiaries are Another Brown Co., Geoex Drilling and North Mindanao Mining.

Another Brown Co. is engaged in the marketing and nationwide distribution of consumer products such as footwear, apparel, accessories, personal care items, food and beverages and adhesives.

Geoex Drilling provides services for other subsidiaries engaged in agribusiness while North Mindanao Mining is into general construction and development, mining exploration, water well drilling, utility services and equipment rental.

MWSS junks gov't guarantee for Maynilad

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has refused to endorse Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s bid to secure a sovereign guarantee for $350 million worth of loans.

In an interview, MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade stressed that it was not written in the concession agreement between the MWSS and Maynilad that the government should guarantee loans acquired either by Maynilad or the MWSS' other concessionaire, Manila Water Co. Inc.

Maynilad has been asking from the MWSS a "lender's clarificatory agreement" that, according to MWSS finance officials, is similar to a sovereign guarantee.

"What we could do for Maynilad is to help them secure the requirements for their creditors proving their financial viability as related to the water services they render in the west zone," Hondrade told the INQUIRER.

The MWSS can validate Maynilad's water tariffs against its operating revenues that will correspond to a stead cash flow that Maynilad can use to pay its debts.

Hondrade said Maynilad could still seek an endorsement for a sovereign guarantee from the Department of Finance. *Christine A. Gaylican*

US meddling in behalf of Ford, says local firm

FRANCISCO Motor Corp. has accused Washington of pressuring Malacañang to push the interests of Ford Motor Co. in the Philippines.

Francisco Motor chair Fernando Francisco said in an interview that the US Embassy here has been intervening in the setting of the government's automotive policy to the detriment of other industry players.

"Our fight here is not only with a giant company but also with a giant government," Francisco said. "We all know that the US Embassy has been pressuring Malacañang to favor American companies."

He said the criticism made by US Commerce Assistant Secretary William Lash III during his recent visit about the government's alleged tax discrimination against US automakers echoed Ford's long-standing position of imposing a flat tax rate on all vehicles.

The government is currently reviewing its existing vehicle tax rates. It is seriously considering terminating the tax exemption on 10-seater vehicles, specifically Asian utility vehicles.

Francisco added that the US Embassy has also been influential in helping Ford get the red carpet treatment from the government since it returned to the Philippines in 1999, nearly two decades after it packed up and left the country to escape an economic crisis. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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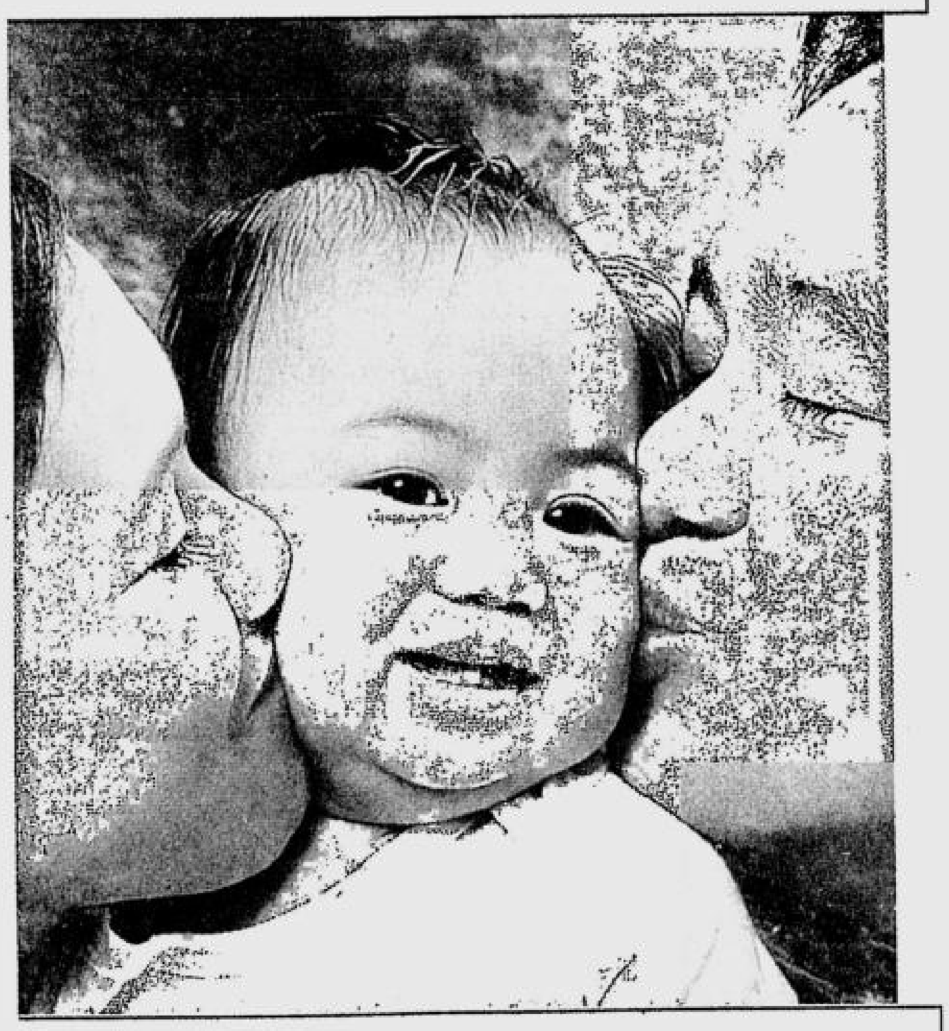

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BUSINESSFriday

Margie Quimpo-Espino, Business Features Editor

When the going gets tough, advertise

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE ECONOMY is down, debts are rising, profits are shrinking. What do companies usually do in these difficult situations? They either look at ways to increase sales or cut costs.

When the latter choice is taken, one can expect the advertising budget to be among the first to be either reduced dramatically or cut totally.

Many decision-makers look at advertising as an expense that they could forego until things get a little better.

Alex Panlilio, group brand director for the carbonated soft drink group of Coca-Cola Export Co., argues that it is better in the long run to do the exact opposite. He says spend more on advertising when the chips are down, and chances are sales would eventually go up and offset the seemingly large advertising expense.

Panlilio shared this view during the recently concluded conference of the International Association of Business Communicators.

Panlilio argued that bringing the brand closer to the public through advertising, particularly in times of crisis, helps to protect the company from the economic downturn.

"The brand is a very powerful symbol, the insurance policy against any downturn. Its image is its biggest asset, with millions of pesos invested behind it. So rather than withdrawing support during an adverse situation, brand advertising should simply be managed differently," Panlilio stressed.

"And if a brand's thematic advertising has worked in the past, it will continue to work during economically adverse times because it represents a core value that consumers recognize and expect from the brand," he added.

The brand value was defined as what the brand has come to mean to consumers, which goes beyond the product itself.

Jollibee, for example is not just a hamburger. Panlilio said it has become synonymous to family moments. Johnson and Johnson is no longer just a brand of baby care products, but a symbol of emotional bond between a mother and her baby.

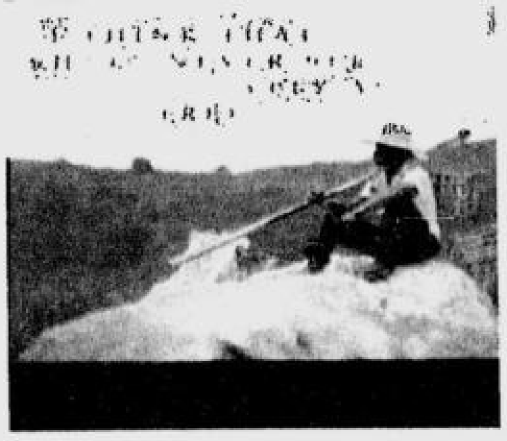
Coke, on the other hand, has come to mean youth, music and comfort—not just a soft drink.

"During hard times when consumers need to make a choice, brands with strong emotional affinity are those that are able to remain part of the basket of goods. This is because during downturns, consumers tend to look for basic values, falling back on what is familiar, seeking reassurance and security," he said.

A sustained advertising campaign goes a long way in building this brand value. Coke has one of the most extensive global advertising campaigns marked with such popular taglines as "Coke adds life" and recently, the *"Magpakatotoo ka"* campaign for Sprite and the Jasper character campaign for Coke.

"These examples use advertising in a big way to support the brand through disruptive times. I guess that simply underscores our belief in Coca-Cola that advertising during tough times yields excellent benefits to both the com-

WHEN/ C5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RP ads win recognition

By Roger Pe

OFF to an auspicious start this year, three Philippine advertising agencies sparkled in the 2001 New York Festivals' television and cinema advertising competition with one bronze and two finalist awards.

The annual adfest was billed as The World's Best Work.

Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi bagged a bronze world medal for its neo-realist portrayal of a television ad espousing the rights of the child entitled "Drum." The ad shows a street child being chased by a mob and policemen for stealing something to eat and then thrown in a garbage drum.

The television commercial also won a gold in last year's Ad Congress and took the 2001 Creative Guild Diwa TV Ad of the Year plum. It also was a finalist in last year's London International Advertising Awards.

DDB Philippines' (Makati office) highly visible campaign to save our Philippine forests from further denudation also scored for the country.

The ad agency's "Bird Cage" used Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" fading in and out of the screen with only the sound of chainsaw and falling tree trunk breaking the silence all throughout the commercial.

The ad, also a Creative Guild Ad of the Month winner, was produced by Filmex, photographed by 2000 Cannes Shortfilm Grand Prix winner Raymund Red, and conceptualized and co-directed by the author.

The agency previously garnered another prestigious international award for its "Posporo" print ad in the London International Advertising Awards.

McCann-Erickson's visually delightful "Subtitle" television ad for Pioneer Allianz stood out among hundreds of entries in banking and finance category.

The television ad used motion control technique to show multi-racial images powerfully expressing the message that "insurance need not sound like as foreign language" to the consumer.

Another multi-awarded ad, it was conceived by the agency's creative team of Kats Guerrero, Rocelle Aragaon and produced by three-time production house of the year Unitel.

For more than 50 years, the New York Festivals has honored excellence in communications media which has touched the hearts and minds of viewers worldwide. Founded in 1957, it attracted more than 17,000 entries this year.

Credit card firms to make inroads in Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany—The euro did away with one symbol of German thrift and conservatism: the sound and stable mark. Now credit-card companies hope it will melt another tradition: aversion to credit cards.

German use of plastic rose dramatically in the first week of January during the introduction of the euro, as consumers and merchants used cards to avoid rummaging for both marks and euros in their pockets at cash registers.

Card companies, which have been trying to get Germans to loosen their financial neckties for years, hope the jump is the beginning of

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Asset vehicles: The wave of the future

By Martin Ignacio D. Mijares

TAX FILES

SGV & Co.

BEFORE you run off to your car dealer to inquire about the SPAV, take a while to read on. An SPAV is not an SUV but a special purpose asset vehicle.

Bills in Congress envision the transfer of banks' non-performing loans (NPLs) and real and other properties owned or acquired (Ropoas) to an SPAV to bring down bad debt levels and at the same time provide a secondary market for these assets.

An SPAV is basically a corporation organized under the Corporation Code for the purpose of acquiring the non-performing assets (NPAs) of financial institutions. These consist of NPLs and Ropoas.

An SPAV is an asset management company (AMC) which will be performing three functions: asset acquisition, asset management and asset disposal.

Philippine banks have been plagued with large NPLs. As of December last year, these NPLS were estimated to constitute about 18 percent of the total loan portfolio of banks. It was also reported that 45 of the country's biggest banks hold more than P245 billion worth of NPLs.

The Philippines is not the first country in the region to set up AMCs.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand already have AMCs to address the problem of high NPL levels. As early as 1962, South Korea established the Korean Asset Management Corp., which has been recently revitalized with fresh funding.

However, unlike its Asian counterparts, the proposed SPAV will be a purely private sector initiative.

The proposed SPAV bill seeks to create a legislative framework to encourage the private sector to invest in the non-performing loans and assets of Philippine banks. To attract potential investors, including foreign institutional investors, the SPAV is granted certain tax exemptions in the performance of its SPAV functions.

How it will work?

1. Establishment of an SPAV

An SPAV, established pursuant to the Corporation Code, shall have a limited life of seven years from the date of approval of its registration. Sixty percent of its equity shall be held by Philippine nationals.

Non-Philippine nationals, in addition to a maximum of 40-percent equity investment, may hold the Investment Unit Instruments (IUI) of an SPAV, such as participation certificates and debt instruments.

The SPAV law may set a deadline for the SPAV to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Aside from the articles of incorporation and by-laws, the SEC shall require submission of an SPAV plan.

The plan will include details such as investment policies, contribution plan, rights of IUI holders, external auditors, members of the executive committee, distribution policies (to equity holders and IUI holders), and guarantees of repayment or advances to the SPAV.

The SPAV bill limits the holders of IUIs to the following:

a. Banks, including their subsidiaries and affiliates, and bank holding companies (provided that no single bank shall own more than 30 percent of the total capital resources of the SPAV)

b. Non-bank financial intermediaries;

c. International institutional investors;

d. Pension funds;

e. Insurance companies;

f. Mutual funds;

g. Special trust funds

h. Individual investors, domestic or foreign, purchasing IUIs in an aggregate amount of not less than P50 million per SPAV.

The SPAV Law may also restrict investment in an IUI by a financial institution that transfers its NPAs to the SPAV, which is the issuer of such IUI.

Linking with a financial institution

After SEC approval, the SPAV has the legal personality to acquire the NPAs of a financial institution. The bill defines a "financial institution" as a credit granting institution which includes (a) a bank as defined under Republic Act No. 8791; (b) a financing company as defined under RA 8556; (c) an investment house as defined under Presidential Decree 129; (d) other institutions performing quasi-banking functions; (e) a government owned and controlled corporation, such as the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., the Home Development Mutual Fund, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, and the Home Guaranty Fund.

The transfer of the NPAs to the SPAV will free the financial institution of the unproductive assets. In exchange, it will receive fresh capital that it can then use for new lending activities. The idea is to strip the NPAs from the bank's balance sheet and replace it with productive assets, allowing the bank to provide funds to those who need them.

The SPAV bill emphasizes that any transfer by a financial institution of its NPAs to a SPAV shall be subject to the approval of the regulatory body having jurisdiction over its operations (such as the Bangko Sentral in the case of banks).

Such a transfer shall be in the nature of a true sale. Notice of the transfer shall be given to debtors and the persons holding prior encumbrances in respect of these NPAs.

Managing the NPAs

Now that the NPAs are in the hands of the SPAV, it can then manage these assets with the objective of maximizing prospects of recovery.

Under the SPAV bill, the SPAV may:

- Negotiate with the debtor with the view of restructuring the debt, reorganizing the debtor's businesses and affairs, disposing the assets of the debtor, condoning debt and other restructuring related activities;
- Engage third parties to manage, operate, collect and dispose of the NPAs;
- Rent, lease out, hire, purchase, pledge, take a mortgage exchange, transfer, sell, secure, securitize, collect rents and profits and other similar acts pertaining to the NPA;
- Enter into dacion en pago arrangements (whereby the debtor delivers and transmits ownership of a thing to the creditor as an accepted equivalent of payment of the debt), foreclose judicially or extra-judicially and other forms of debt settlement involving real estate and other properties;
- to entrust a third party asset servicing company, or a financial institution that is a former creditor, the collection and receipt of the debt payments for debts under debt restructuring or business reorganization.

In restructuring debt, the SPAV may:

- reduce principal, interest, interest rates, and the period for calculating the interest;
- extend the time for debt repayment;
- relax the conditions for debt repayment;
- convert the debtor's debt to equity in the debtor's business;
- take a transfer of assets or claims from the debtor to repay the debt or dispose of some of the debtor's property or claims to third persons;
- take transfer of shares or buy shares issued in case of increase of capital for the purpose of business reorganization of the debtor; and
- apply any other measures or restructuring techniques with the approval of the SEC.

Tax exemptions of SPAV transactions

Ideally, transfers by the financial institutions to the SPAV (or by a borrower to the SPAV in case of foreclosure of land which is a collateral to an NPL) and by the SPAV to a third party buyer should be exempt from income tax (or capital gains tax) and transaction taxes such as documentary stamp tax, land transfer tax, and registration fees.

The SPAV Law, however, may eventually just provide a specific enumeration of taxes from which the SPAV transactions are exempt, and thereby exclude from the list of exemptions the income tax of the SPAV and any withholding tax on the distributions to IUI holders and SPAV equity holders.

Protection granted to the SPAV

Under the SPAV bill, where an SPAV, or collectively a group of SPAVs, holds assets from a debtor representing more than 50 percent of all the debts of the debtor, no court, except the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals, may issue any temporary restraining order or writ of injunction against the SPAV or any of its representatives or any person or entity acting under the SPAV' s direction.

The SPAV bill also includes provisions on the procedure for corporate rehabilitation that will not prejudice the creditors and that is non-litigious in nature.

Conclusion

The passage of an SPAV law and the establishment of SPAVs are, undeniably, not enough to cure what ails the Philippine economy. But it should be a step in the right direction, as long as regulatory checks are instituted and effectively implemented.

(For comments and suggestions, please send an e-mail to sgvmail@Andersen WO)

Credit . . .

From page C1

change in card culture for Europe's largest economy.

Visa says it saw a 21-percent jump in the number of transactions compared to the same week the year before, while Europay, holder of the Eurocard MasterCard brand, reported an increase of around 10 percent.

While other European countries, most notably Britain and France, have already followed Americans down the road to consumption through debt, Germany has mostly stuck with cash and debit cards, which deduct purchase amounts immediately.

Germans are quite familiar with payment cards, with 1,055 pieces of plastic per 1,000 people, third highest in the 15-member European Union behind the Netherlands and Britain. But they're mostly debit cards, and mostly used only for tapping cash from ATMs.

Reasons have included German laws restricting come-ons like frequent-flier miles for card use and barriers to direct marketing of cards and to sharing credit-history information.

Visa, for example, has about 9 million delayed-payment cards, or about 40 percent of the market, circulating in Germany, which has 82 million people. That compares to its 21 million cards in France, with 59 million people.

Visa's contrast is even sharper in card use: 126 billion euros in France and only 14 billion euros in Germany for the year ending in September 2001. Germans often don't have a single credit card, and many major retailers won't take them.

For instance, furniture chain Ikea takes credit cards only at one store near the French border, where many crossborder shoppers want to use credit cards.

AP

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Ex-seminarian rallies people to build brands

MARKETING MAN

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ONE company where Filipinos have been making waves, albeit quietly, is Bayer, the giant German pharmaceutical firm.

Gerardo P. Siquijor recently became the first Asian to assume the post of regional brand manager for the over-the-counter business of Bayer Consumer Care, and is now posted in Singapore.

Siquijor, 38, an ex-seminarian and a former church choir member, heads the anti-fungals and vitamins division of Bayer and covers 11 countries including Australia and China.

"I owe my success to people. No matter how brilliant you are, if you cannot rally people behind your cause you are nothing," he tells Business Friday two days before he flew to his new post.

Siquijor's cause is the brand and making everyone single minded about building it.

Prior to his promotion, Siquijor was group product manager for OTC business in the Philippines. He covers brands such as Canesten, One-A-Day, Flintstones, Aspirin and Alka-Seltzer.

When Siquijor joined Bayer in 1996, Canesten had a 5-percent market share of the anti-fungal cream market. Today it enjoys the top position with a market share of over 30 percent.

"My accomplishments would not have been possible without the '*malasakit*' of the people that I have worked with," he added.

He cited the two general managers he had been under in his five-and-a-half years with Bayer Phils.: his sales director Albe Manliclic and former marketing manager and current general manager of Bayer's H&R division Ella Marzan.

He even cited his relationship with advertising agency BBDO/Guerrero and Ortega, which has created award-winning campaigns for Canesten, and of course the distributors and outlets of the brands.

"The key is to get along and encourage and motivate the various groups to work for your brand," he said.

In 1998, he organized a promotions team to cover key doctors nationwide in collaboration with Zuellig Pharmalink. This was in line with the launch that year of One-A-Day, one of the fastest growing multivitamin brands in the country today.

Siquijor, a business management graduate of the Ateneo with an MBA from De La Salle University, began his career in the pharmaceutical business with USV Armour, makers of the former popular acne medication Clearasil.

SIQUIJOR is married to the former Margarita Herce, whom he met while both of them were in the MBA program of De La Salle University. They have two daughters, Sachi and Mira.

Rorer, another pharmaceutical firm, later on bought USV Armour and still later on bought another German firm Notterman, which produced Pharmaton.

He stayed with the firm during the two mergers but he decided to cash out and accept a "walk-away package" on the third merger where Rhone Poulanc bought Rorer. He invested his money in education.

He was 27 in 1990 and he went to the United States to take up a non-diploma course on business communication at the Mount San Antonio College of the University of California.

He said that he worked as a cashier in a Shell station there to keep his savings intact. What he got from Shell he used to cover for his daily expenses.

When he arrived in August 1991 he taught briefly at the Ateneo de Naga but Manila beckoned.

Tired of experiencing mergers in pharmaceutical firms, he decided to start anew in another industry—advertising. He joined a small agency, Convey Advertising, which served the communication needs of taipan Lucio Tan's firms, specifically, Allied Bank and Fortune Tobacco.

But his destiny was headed for pharmaceuticals, and in 1994 Roche Consumer Health Phils. Inc. needed someone who knew ethical promotions (marketing of drugs via doctors) and consumer advertising and Siquijor was it.

Roche got him to handle Rogin-E, which was then shifting from ethical to over-the-counter. This meant a shift from the use of medical representatives to commercials to reach the market.

This was Siquijor's big break as he was able to create a name for Rogin-E by tapping athlete David Bunevacz to be the commercial model.

Ironically, Roche got Rogin-E from Nicholas Kiwi, a pharmaceutical firm that owns the multivitamins. So after avoiding pharmaceutical firms because of the possibility of mergers, it was a merger that gave him a good break in the end.

Success, however, cannot be kept under wraps, and Bayer soon got wind of him and his abilities, prompting the giant pharmaceutical company to invite him to join the company and promote Canesten.

He did and Bayer has no regrets.

Other Filipinos who have taken on key positions in Bayer include Ronnie Arco, consumer care general manager for Singapore and Malaysia; Denise Tambuatco, regional marketing manager for insect control based in Singapore; and Cecille Valencia, regional brand manager for insect control based in Singapore.

Siquijor is married to the former Margarita Herce, whom he met while both of them were in the MBA program of De La Salle University. They have two daughters, Sachi and Mira.

Microsoft pins hopes on fledgling Web service

SEATTLE—In its push to become more of a consumer products company, Microsoft Corp. is pinning its hopes on a fledgling product line called .NET.

Unlike most consumer products, this isn't something you can touch, buy outright or even explain very easily.

Pronounced "dot-net," .NET provides services over the Internet. Early versions can remember a customer's credit card number for Internet purchases or alert a user to bids on online auctions.

Eventually, the system could handle such things as arranging appointments and sending that information to handheld or personal computers.

Say you are planning a trip to Africa. The system could buy your tickets through a travel agent, then access your doctor's records and tell you what immunizations you need. It could even arrange a time for the shots.

On the day of your trip, it could alert you by cell phone if your flight is late, or if traffic to the airport is backed up.

Such services could be accessed from any computing device.

No longer would you need to juggle phones, Web browsers and e-mail at home or in the office. All your information would be available to you wherever you were.

The .NET platform is key to changing the image of Microsoft, long thought of as a maker of business tools and operating systems.

"I don't think consumers identify Microsoft broadly as a consumer company," said Steve Guggenheimer, Microsoft's senior director of business management. "We need to start to build an identity with . . . how Microsoft helps make their daily lives better."

But even Microsoft admits that will take time.

It will be at least two years before .NET consumer services become widespread, Guggenheimer said, and perhaps 10 years before the ultimate vision is fulfilled.

Charles Fitzgerald, Microsoft's general manager of platform strategy, describes Windows XP, the latest operating system, as "one of the first sockets" of the .NET plan.

Eventually, he said, .NET will serve as a basis for connecting all sort of Microsoft products, from its e-mail service to its PocketPCs.

"We used to build applications that basically were standalone islands," Fitzgerald said. "Now we build sockets that are designed to be sockets to a number of different services."

On top of hearing music on Windows Media Player, a person could also buy music, be alerted if a particular band were coming to town, and get the chance to buy concert tickets - all using Microsoft services.

Other Microsoft products also will provide the tools for .NET. These include its MSN e-mail service and Internet portal, its MSN Messenger and even its Xbox game console and Office software.

Microsoft is also fast building a customer base for Passport, a free system that can store online passwords and credit card numbers. In later incarnations, Passport will be used to store other personal information for .NET services, such as a calendar, medical records, bills or airplane reservations.

Microsoft already has more than 200 million Passport users, in part because it requires accounts for services such as Hotmail and advanced Windows XP functions.

To be successful, Microsoft will have to make people think of .NET as a basis for everything they do with computers, said David Smith, vice president of Internet strategy for Gartner Inc., a research firm.

Smith believes Microsoft can succeed, given the weight it can put behind the effort through its already dominant products, including the Windows operating system.

Others aren't sure.

"It's a very complex, very corporate . . . kind of concept they're trying to deliver to a market of folks that is used to thinking about things in terms of just going to the store and buying," said Rob Enderle, an analyst with Giga Information Group. "It's a market that's hard to convince and easily scared."

Analysts say Microsoft still has to persuade people to pay for these Internet services—a tough sell because Microsoft and other companies typically give away many Internet products.

It also has to convince people their personal information is safe with Microsoft.

Last month, chief software architect Bill Gates said employees receive an e-mail saying that security must become top priority for Microsoft products.

The memo came after a major security vulnerability was found in Windows XP, the latest in a string of such troubles.

High-profile privacy and security experts, including the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, D.C., have already called on the government to investigate security and privacy concerns posed by Passport and .NET.

But Microsoft's Guggenheimer said the Gates' directive didn't significantly change .NET plans.

"The good news is that, .NET being a newer platform, has always had that at its core," he said.

Finally, Microsoft has to worry about competition.

America Online currently has a stronghold of e-mail and instant-messaging users and offers some similar services. Microsoft also faces competition from Liberty Alliance, a Passport-like service being created by Microsoft foes.

While some rival products compete with some .NET services, analysts Smith and Enderle agree that no competitor has such an all-encompassing plan as Microsoft.

Enderle believes that could create another threat—Microsoft may be vulnerable to another anti-trust investigation if the company is able to enjoy such success that it creates a veritable monopoly for Internet services.

"The only thing that really stops .NET is the government," he said.

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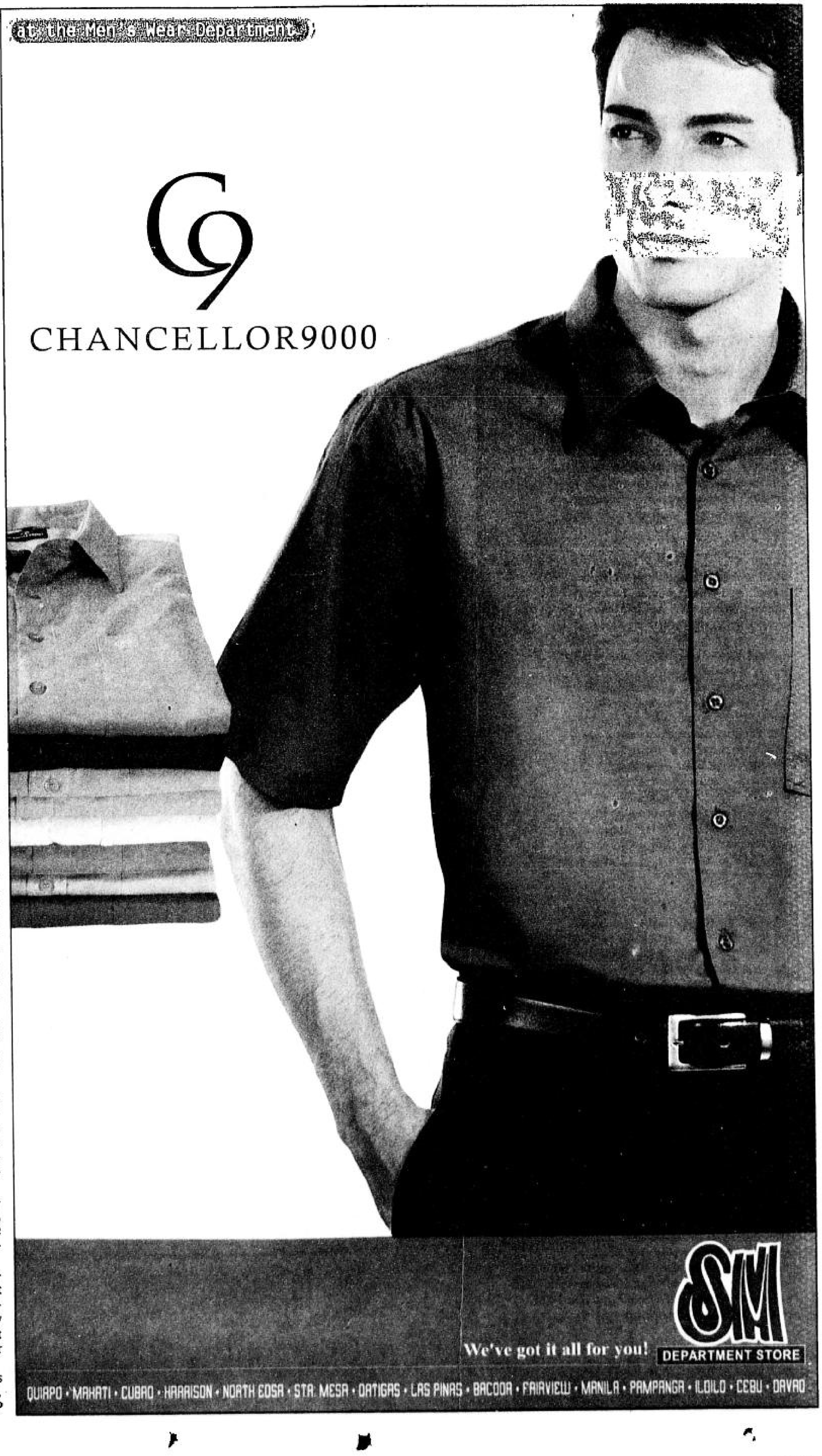

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Marketing experts meet set in March

THE ASSOCIATION of Marketing Educators (AME) mounts the 12th National Marketing Educators' Conference on March 1, 2002 at the Ballroom of Hotel Rembrandt and the 4th Students' Marketing Conference on March 2 at Jade Valley Restaurant in Quezon City.

The conference aims to gather marketing educators, experts, professionals and students who want to learn more about marketing management and various business approaches in the industry today. This year's theme, "E-Marketing: Sustaining Industry-Academe Partnership," focuses on how to strengthen the quality marketing education—in the country with the hope to produce world-class marketing executives among students who would be more responsive to the needs of the business community.

"The letter 'E' in the theme may represent a lot of things and is not exclusive to electronic. It goes beyond information technology and e-commerce by representing other ideas such as excellent, effective, enhanced, empowered—everything that we want our marketing graduates to be," explains Ed Martinez, AME president and a professor at the College of Business Education and Administration in New Era University.

Martinez notes that this year's national meet will gather some of the country's noted marketing practitioners and professors who would share new marketing insights, winning secrets and the latest marketing strategies which are applicable during these trying economic times.

This year's gathering will be divided into two, with marketing educators, industry practitioners and graduate students participating in the first conference day and marketing students on the second day.

Pearl farm project to generate dollars

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Just like big companies that tap Palawan's rich natural resources by investing millions of dollars, another corporation is set to embark on a business enterprise that will put up pearl farms in strategic locations in the province.

Adam Lawyer, general manager of the Far East Pearl Corp. (FEPC), said the company is willing to finance a pearl farm industry that could generate an income of $1.5 million a year. Speaking before the provincial board, Lawyer said Palawan alone could produce 75,000 shells a year, which could generate the best south sea pearls in the world.

The pearl industry, he said, could even compete with major industries like copra, sugar and rice.

Unlike other companies, Lawyer said the firm is willing to transfer the technology and techniques of pearl culture to local residents.

He said they plan to train about 200 individuals on how to properly culture quality, high-yielding clams.

Lawyer said this would directly provide livelihood opportunities, aside from the taxes it would give to local government units.

Lawyer also explained that pearl farming is the safest and most environment-friendly industry.

Operators are very strict with illegal fishermen because clams are sensitive to chemical and toxic materials. Although pearl prices declined in the past years, the province still has a lot of potential because the best natural resources are in Palawan coupled with lower production cost, he said. FEPC is eyeing Coron Island as one of its sites.

Lawyer is also scheduled to present the project before the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), an administrative body governing environmental projects in Palawan.

Earning by not accepting a 'no'

By Alex Y. Vergara

THEY call themselves "gods" not out of arrogance, but with the self-deprecating humor of people who won't accept no' for an answer. They're the men and women of Philam Plans, several of whom received the company's Lakbayan awards in recognition rites held recently at the grand ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

"Prospective clients are amazed at our tenacity," said Eliseo Dizon, president of Philam Plans. "Every time we knock on other people's doors, they can't help but exclaim 'my God it's you again!'"

The annual incentives went to the company's top agency managers, district managers, unit managers and sales counselors based in various parts of the country. It was like the Oscars of Philam Plans with beaming awardees dressed to the nines.

Despite last year's bad economy, made worse in the wake of 9-11, Philam Plans managed to grow by 35 percent in November compared with the same month in 2000. It experienced a lull in business soon after the tragedy, but within a month business had gone back to normal and soon exceeded the company's target for the fiscal year (December 2000 to November 2001).

Good for pre-need

"Such tragedies," said Dizon, "are favorable to pre-need companies like us. In times of uncertainty, people look for safe places to put their money in." Philam Plans carries the entire range of pre-need products, from educational, pension, to life plans. It may not be the first, but it holds the distinction of introducing some of the most innovative products and packages in the industry such as the wedding plan.

In 13 short years, said Dizon, Philam Plans has moved to second place, next to 26-year-old industry leader CAP.

Philam Plans is not to be confused with Philam Life, its bigger and older sister company. Both are member-companies of the American International Group Inc.

There are close to 8,000 self-employed people (58 percent are women) who make up Philam Plans' nationwide sales force. While many begin selling pre-need plans on the side, not a few have left their regular jobs to join Philam Plans or start their own agencies and eventually become multimillionaires.

Top agency managers Flor Borreo and Francisco Bautista are two such success stories. Bautista or *Mang* Kiko to friends and clients began knocking on other people's doors not as a sales counselor but as a part-time postman in Lipa, Batangas, in the late '50s. His dream of entering college had to wait until he could save enough money to finance his education.

"With a monthly income of P40," he said in Filipino, "it could have taken me forever to fulfill my dream." That was until he joined Philam Life as one of its sales associates. Rather than quit his job, however, he parlayed the goodwill and trust he had earned from countless strangers to sell insurance policies.

Success stories

"After delivering a letter," Bautista said, "I asked for an appointment with the recipient so I could offer him or her the policy." He did finish a degree in commerce eight years later, when his second child with Julieta was born.

The Bautistas have seven children, four of whom have joined their father in the family's thriving pre-need plan business. But that's getting ahead of our story.

Bautista left the insurance industry to work as a mail sorter for a Saudi Arabia-based company in the early '80s. But old habits die hard. After a three-year absence, Bautista found himself back in the country doing what he loves best: meeting and talking to people. He rejoined the old organization this time as part of Philam Plans' growing sales force.

The role of divine providence aside, Bautista attributes his success to sincerity and hard work. "In this industry," he said, "sincerity and a genuine concern for others count a lot. Of course, you need to be brazen (*walang hiya*) as well."

For his efforts, Bautista and his family now own a modest, four-bedroom home in Batangas, a fishpond and several vehicles. His five children are all professionals, while the two youngest are still pursuing law and engineering degrees. His sales career has also afforded him the chance to travel abroad as part of Philam Plans' incentives.

PHILAM Plans president Eliseo Dizon with AIG Phils. head Jose L. Cuisia

"I have a lot to be thankful for," he said. "I never would have gone this far had I chosen to stay as a postman all my life."

From RTW to sales

Nor would Borreo, who tied with three-time winner Bautista as last year's top agency manager. Her exposure to sales began with one of Philam Plans rival companies almost 13 years ago. To make ends meet, Borreo, then a secretary, sold almost anything but illegal drugs to the company's sales people.

"My merchandise range from RTW to hotdogs," said the shapely mother of four. "Give me anything and in no time I could sell it." Although Borreo remained oblivious to her persuasive abilities, her customers, who convinced her to try selling pre-need plans, weren't. Even her boss offered her a slot as one of the company's sales counselors. She didn't give it much thought until her eldest child was about to enter school.

Borreo, like a typical Filipino parent, wanted the best education for her daughter, especially during her formative years. With mounting bills to pay, however, not even the couple's combined incomes could pay for their child's education in an exclusive school. Borreo didn't think twice of quitting her regular job to take up her boss' offer.

"Come to think of it," she said in hindsight. "I didn't have a single centavo in the bank when I resigned. Thank God, things have turned out well."

Her initial success as a sales counselor soon caught Philam Plans' attention. In 1993, she received an invitation from one of the company's agency managers to join them. She has been a consistent awardee ever since.

Oh, yes, her three children are all studying in reputable schools. In fact, eldest child Laddale Riz, 18, is now in college taking up medical technology at the University of Santo Tomas. Her youngest child Gemina Dale, 5, will soon start schooling come June. Unlike in the case of her *Ate* Laddale, Mommy has no reason to worry or switch careers to make ends meet in the years, perhaps even decades to come. *(E-mail the author, avergara@inquirer.com.ph.)*

TIP Expands its Curriculum with Yapster e-Learning Courses

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) recently subscribed to at least 5,000 licenses for IT courses supplied by Yapster e-Learning, Inc. Beginning June 2002, TIP students in the Manila and Quezon City campuses will have access to online courses that contain basic to advanced IT learning materials.

Dr. Teresita Quirino, TIP's President, represented the educational institution in formalizing a three-year contract whereby Yapster e-Learning will deliver 5,000 International Computer Driving Licenses (ICDL) for use by TIP students. The ICDL is one of Yapster e-Learning's more popular courses. It contains lessons on basic computer operations, and extends all the way to word processing, preparing spreadsheets and presentations, and using the World Wide Web. For more advanced learners, a series of certification preparation programs such as Web Authoring, Web Programming, Internet Technologies, and a few others are also included. TIP has also arranged for the inclusion into the courseware of internationally accredited vendor specific certification courses from Microsoft, IBM, Netscape, Novell, and Lotus Notes to cater to students who are really interested in these courses.

"Offering e-Learning courses was the obvious next step towards furthering our mission to provide a high standard of relevant and well-rounded education," Dr. Quirino states. TIP recognizes the important role technology plays in the New Global Economy and has therefore restructured its curriculum for June 2002 to reflect this. A fusion of technology and traditional education, TIP's enhanced curriculum aims to make all students computer proficient no matter what course they enroll in.

"To make our enhanced curriculum work for our students, it is critical for us to be abreast with the latest and most advanced IT programs and methods of instruction. With Yapster e-Learning, this is made easier. Yapster e-Learning is really a great aid in achieving the school's thrust. I am excited for the opening of school year 2002!" Dr. Quirino concludes.

Yapster e-Learning has a growing library of over 1,200 courses, at least 50% of which are on IT. Yapster e-Learning's complete library of Business and IT courses can be viewed at www.2studyIT.com. Yapster e-Learning also features a highly engaging course design that has been proven by WR Hambrecht + Co. to increase retention rates by as much as 50-60%, at the same time speed up the learning curve by 50%.

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When the going gets tough, advertise

From page C1

pany and our brands," he said.

"Advertisers who continue to advertise, and advertise aggressively, do better than those who do not and it seems that there are others who share the same opinion and have come to a similar conclusion," he added.

Panlilio cited a study by the American Business Press which studied the relationship between advertising and sales in 143 countries during the severe 1974-1975 downturn in the United States.

The study concluded that companies which did not reduce advertising expense in either year had the highest growth in sales and net income during the following two years.

"The studies also proved that companies which cut advertising during both years had the lowest sales and net income increases during the two study years and the following two years. And not surprisingly, companies that cut advertising during only one of the recession years had sales and net income that fell in between," Panlilio said.

Another study by McGraw Hill showed that firms which maintained or increased advertising during recession averaged significantly higher sales growth than companies that eliminated or decreased advertising budgets.

The Harvard Business Review conducted an industry specific study and it found that airlines that increased advertising expenditures increased sales and market share in years of recession while airlines that cut advertising in both years lost sales and shares for both years.

"The results of these studies that I have come across are clear and consistent. Companies that do not cut advertising budgets in times of economic downturn post greater increases in sales and net income than companies that cut back. Why else does it pay to advertise when the company is down? To capture share of mind and share of market," he added.

Panlilio also emphasized that current and future sales are jeopardized if a company or brand fails to maintain its share of mind during an economic downturn.

If only for this reason then it pays to advertise, even in tough times.

Some unusual ways of advertising

By Betty Uy-Regala

THE IDEA for this article came after receiving a bus ticket. Unlike the usual tickets that the bus conductor dispenses which commuters readily roll into a joint, tuck in the head rest to forget about only to grapple for it once the inspector comes, this one they'd rather keep. I did.

The ticket has a multi-color printing on book paper with blue dominating it. Aside from the fare of the bus ride, it carries an advertisement of Ponstan 250, which explains its quality.

But this is not all, in addition to the product ad on the bus' body, the seats inside have light blue upholstery with a message on each head rest that says: Your trip may take more than 15 minutes at least your headache won't.

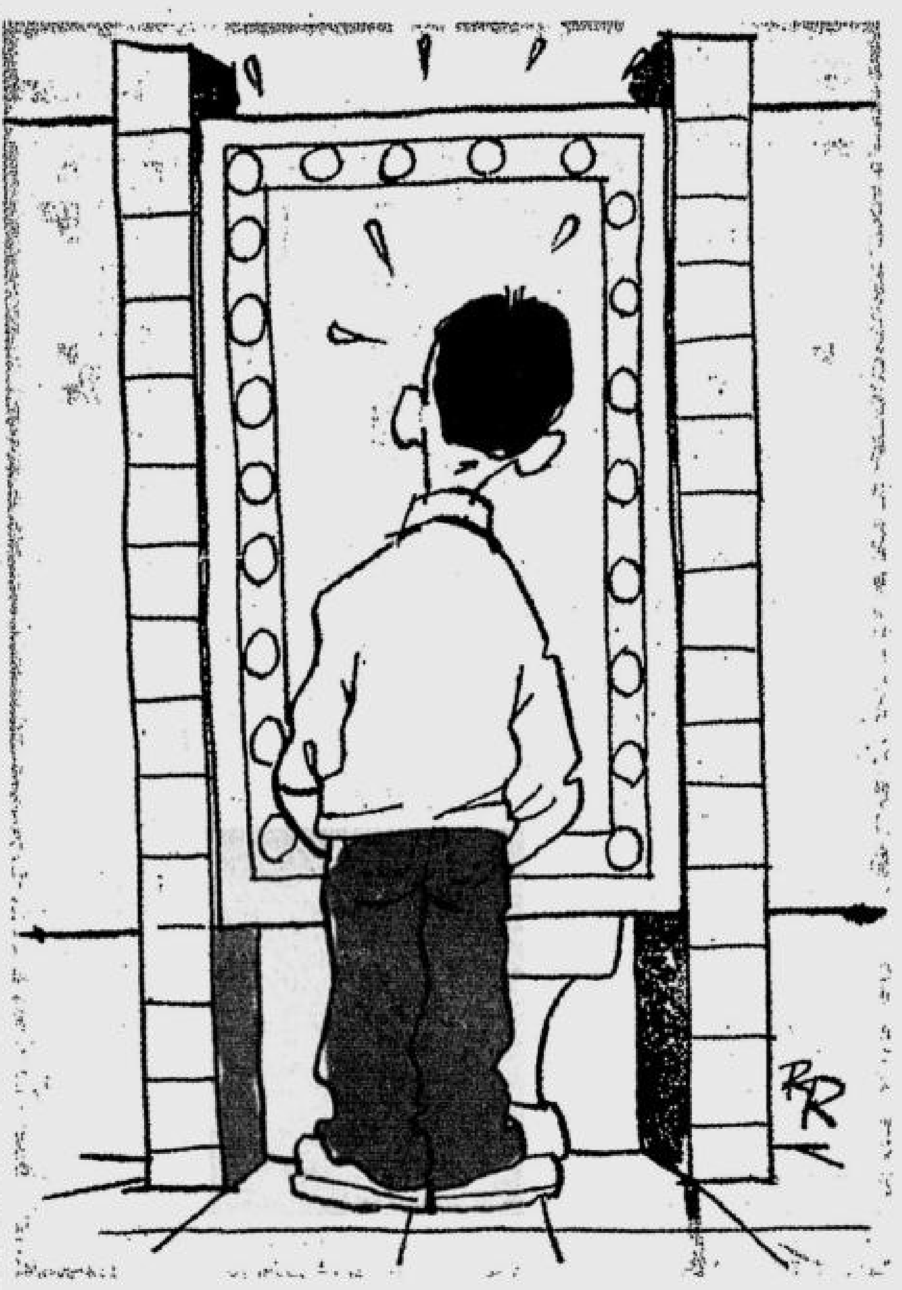
The bus experience last year has led me to observe other unusual places that advertisements have made more interesting. The ads on the doors of comfort rooms allow customers to have something to rest their eyes on while waiting for their turn and the moving ads on the floors of malls is something to look at when they get bored of strolling.

Michelle Quintana, managing director of Comfort Ads Inc., says comfort room advertising started as a funny proposal. "We were brainstorming for a client who has a limited budget. He wanted to try a medium that targeted the female market with no spill over," she relates.

Danilo Sembrano of Tactica Advertising asked Quintana to take the suggestion seriously. She did a feasibility study and discovered through research that Canada and Australia use comfort room advertising. After a year, Comfort Ads Inc. was born.

United Neon, the company known for its billboards, has been on the lookout for a new and innovative medium that met four criteria. They found it on the floors.

"First, it should have a very low production cost. Second, it should have movement because movement attracts people. Third, it should draw attention to itself through graphic and photographic images. And lastly, it should be able to project a certain size for people to take notice," says Danny Lim, marketing manager of Luxent Moving Ads, the new division of United Neon created to handle the new concept last year.



Comfort Ads and Luxent approached the malls, which showed enthusiasm on their concepts. They are present in the department store chains of SM and Robinsons and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. Aside from Tutuban and Ever Gotesco malls, a shipping company and eight schools have comfort room advertising while Festival Supermall, Farmers Plaza and Ali Mall have moving ads on their floors. Advertisers welcomed this new means of putting their messages across.

"They were amazed at the idea and you can't beat the fact that people go to the restroom. When they use this medium, they are assured of an immediate response because we are very near the point of purchase—groceries or stores in the mall," Quintana says.

"They notice that children liked to play with moving lights. Since parents accompany their kids in the malls, they see the ads too," Lim adds.

The cost sets these alternative advertising media apart from the traditional mode. Advertisers can have a one-year exposure for P20,400 to P24,000 with Comfort Ads or P240,000 with Luxent. For ad frames on the front door of a CR cubicle, Comfort Ads charges P2,000 a month and P1,700 a month for the back door. Luxent gives an approximate amount of P5,000 for its minimum term of a week in sizes that range from 3 to 6 feet in diameter.

The first batch of advertisers that used Comfort Ads and Luxent had products that were correlated with the type of medium they offered. A tissue brand, a feminine wash, and other hygiene products went to the restroom and a toy store alighted on the floor. The advertisers, since then, have become more heterogeneous.

"We prefer advertisers who are open to the possibilities of targeting their markets effectively. An anti-piracy campaign used our medium and got a lot of calls. A contact lens product did the same and also received a positive response," Quintana says.

However, there are still others who are hesitant on the product association with the ad location. "Some advertisers don't like their ads to be stepped on. However, if they can look beyond that, they will see that it's a very effective medium," Lim says.

While Luxent awaits for an advertiser that will rely solely on the medium for its ad campaign, Comfort Ads has already sealed a deal with a client that will use it as a primary medium for its product launch with special events as support.

As advertisers scout for a medium with impact at a lower cost during these hard times, the challenge on their creative partners is to explore ad possibilities on places where once they were not.

After the buses, comfort rooms and floors, one wonders where advertisements will appear next.

TIP Celebrates 40th Foundation Anniversary

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) will be celebrating its 40th Foundation Day and its Founder's 77th birthday from Monday, February 04, 2002 to Saturday, February 09, 2002. The weeklong celebration will have for its theme "TIP at 40: In Constant Redefinition of Academic Life."

One of the highlights of the celebration is the Founder's Night with the Employees on Friday, February 8, 2002 at the TIP-Manila campus. The night's program includes the TIP Employee Service Awards, and the presentation of The Plaque of Appreciation and Recognition to the TIP Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Demetrio A. Quirino, Jr.

Another highlight is the TIP Alumni Night, where Ruby Awards to outstanding TIP Alumni will be given out. The TIP Alumni Night will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002, at the Century Park Hotel, Manila.

Other activities at TIP during the week include the Anniversary Mass, student exhibitions and booths, sports fests and a cheering competition, PE and martial arts demonstrations, and student awards.

There will also be a Battle of the Bands, and the selection of Mr. and Ms. TIP. To add to this, there will also be student-organized concerts featuring South Border back to back with Rivermaya on February 5, 2002 at TIP-Quezon City, and Parokya ni Edgar on February 7, 2002 at TIP Manila.

The traditional bloodletting activities in honor of the Founder will likewise be carried out on February 6 and 7 in TIP-Manila and TIP-Quezon City respectively.

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
TIP
FOUNDED 1962 MANILA

h Founding Anniversary,
Philippines unveils its new logo:

challenges, while maintaining the same passion and steadfastness that build an institution.
ues, industry-desired values and global citizen values.
who will contribute to the general welfare of society.

Laptop computer:
Innovativeness. Technology-based,
Up-to-date facilities.

Triangle: Stability.
Steadfastness.
A strong foundation.

40 years
of Excellence
in Engineering
Education

finition of academic life.

o, Quezon City Tels. 911-0148 / 912-1539 TIP SEASIDE MARITIME TRAINING CENTER: Brgy. San Rafael III, Noveleta, Cavite
www.tip.edu.ph

People, Events & Products

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

A new mag just for Pinoy nurses

THE PHILIPPINES is fast becoming the largest source of health care professionals, particularly nurses. The trend will continue in the next five years. This is evidenced by the fact that nursing schools have more than tripled their enrollment figures in the last semester, and there have been increasing demands for nurses abroad, principally in the United States.

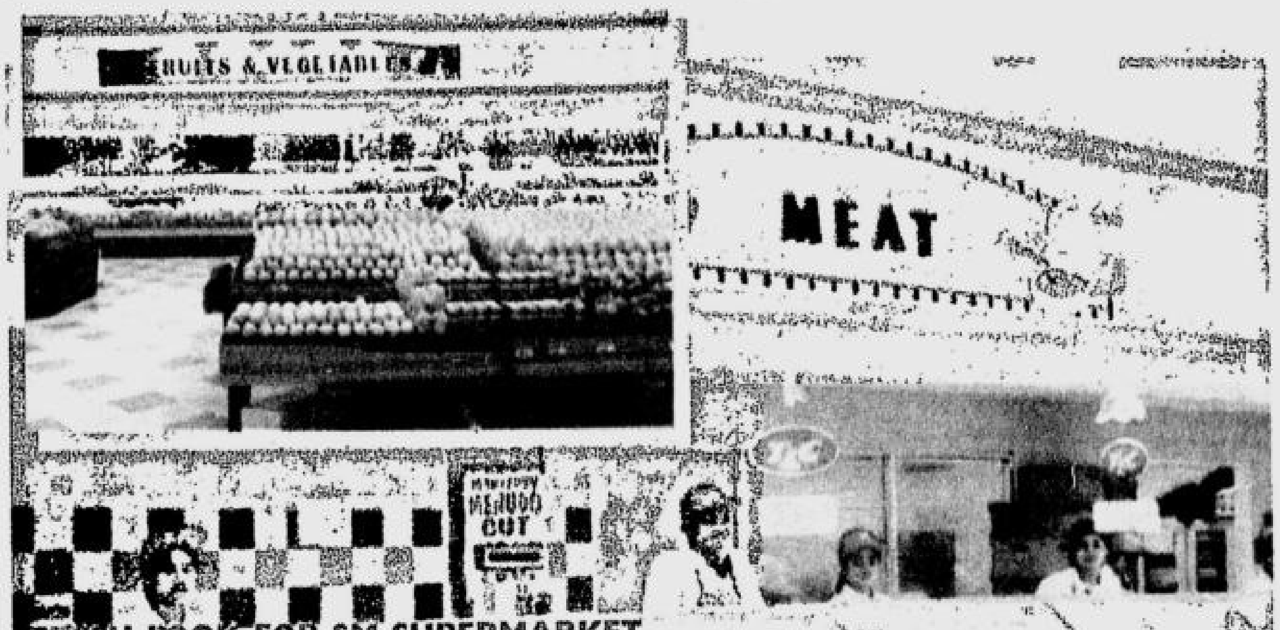
Filipino nurses are at an advantage because of their extensive training and functional knowledge of the English language. Years of studies have made Filipino college graduates able to understand and communicate using this international language. Foreign employers have commented on the adaptability and the resourcefulness of Filipino nurses. Many of these employers also claim that among other nationalities, Filipino workers are the easiest to train and fastest to adapt to the ever-changing work place.

It can be expected, thus, that more foreign countries will tap local manpower resources to fill their growing vacancies. But how do these foreign employers reach out to potential employees, and vice versa? The answer is simple: through the classified and other advertising section of a magazine that caters specifically to Filipino nurses.

Alpha Educational Services Inc., a stock corporation duly registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission, is coming up with a magazine exclusively for nurses, the PilipiNurse: the Filipino nurses' guide to global nursing. The maiden issue had been released second week of January. PilipiNurse is the first magazine of its kind in the country.

The PilipiNurse will be published monthly and in its pages are articles and stories about nurses. It contains information relevant to the nursing profession together with feature stories and anecdotes about living and working as a nurse. Through the PilipiNurse, local and foreign employers can reach out to prospective employees.

To know more about PilipiNurse, visit www.pilipinurse.com, or get in touch with the marketing team at 493-3112, telefax 736-4292.



FRESH LOOK FOR SM SUPERMARKET

The new millennium store renovation program, which started in 2001, is wielding its new fresh impact on SM Supermarket shoppers in SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint, SM City Manila, SM City San Fernando, SM City Iloilo, and most recently SM City Davao. Starting this 2002, SM Supermarket has launched its new TLC Fresh Look, with towering fresh fruit presentations and abundant garden fresh vegetable greens from its 'Produce Selectibles'. Snapping clams, live crabs and splashing tilapias live daily from its fresh catch of the day 'Seafood Selectibles', and an impeccable array of quality chops, steaks and ribs from its 'Carnivore Selectibles', are all ready to whet everyone's 'Fresh a-petit.'

Mini-malls to be set up by Cojuangco group

AN INNOVATIVE development game plan that can transform the country's rural centers and suburban areas into bustling entertainment and business districts is now in the works. The Dream Plaza, envisioned to be a mini-mall for the masses, will be built in areas where mall giants like SM and Robinsons choose not to go. The Plaza is expected to house movie theaters and food stalls, convenience stores and pharmacies that offer cheap and affordable medicine.

An Internet café where residents of the area can maintain e-mail addresses, chat with their loved ones or video-conference with family or business associates can likewise complement this technology-driven complex.

The Dream Plaza is one of the pet projects of former PLDT chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco under the Philippine Multi-Media System Inc. (PMSI) group, a P1-billion company seeking to provide the Philippine market with the most advanced technology in digital broadcasting.

PMSI's broadcast facilities are located at the communications center of Clark Air Base, a former military facility that has been converted into a special economic zone. Transponders, on the other hand, are leased from the Mabuhay Satellite Agila II, the Philippines' very own satellite. PMSI president and CEO Cesar Reyes disclosed that the Agila footprint even covers part of Hong Kong, China, and Vietnam.

Holding a 40-percent stake of the Franchise One Corp., the exclusive franchise distributor of the Dream Plazas, Cojuangco is joined by former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, whose family owns the franchise of Wendy's and 7-Eleven in the Philippines; broadcasting luminary Menardo Jimenez, who partly owns GMA 7 Network; former BIR Commissioner Dakila Fonacier, owner of the Odyssey Music Group; and former National Development Corp. general manager Samie Lim, whose family owns the Automatic Center, Blim's Furniture and Sogo.

Due for immediate operation as soon as the infrastructure requirements are completed, the theater is projected to be the Dream Plaza's top draw. A good 80 percent of the films to be shown in the theaters will be sourced locally, principally from Viva films.

Back-to-back franchisees for the food, appliance, pharmacy, Internet and other components will either start simultaneously with the theater operations or be part of a graduated expansion program.

Currently, negotiations are underway for the construction of the first five theaters in Rizal, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, and other areas in Luzon. As the target is to set up a total of 100 theaters per year over the next five years all over the country, Franchise One is now accepting franchise applications for Dream Plaza.

Basic criteria set by the site selection committee are as follows: 1) Land area should be at least 1,000 square meters with a clean title; 2) Near at least two landmark spots in the locality (e.g. transportation terminal, church, public market); 3) Must be accessible by public transport; 4) With good electricity and water supply.

Interested Dream Plaza franchisees may send letters of intent to: Code: DP; Franchise One Corporation, 11th floor, DPC Place, 2322 Don Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension) Makati City.

Visits to the model theater located in the Dream Broadcasting complex at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga can likewise be arranged for interested parties

'MUSIKAHAN' IN MONTALBAN

Edgar, Edgar, Musikahan', a fund-raising concert at the Rizal State College in Montalban, will be held on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. The concert features Parokya ni Edgar, shown with executive producer Gino Mariano and his son John Hendrix, an avid fan.

Valentine's with San Miguel Culinary Center

WANT TO impress your loved one with a specially prepared Valentine's dinner? Learn hassle-free recipes from appetizer to dessert from Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Campo Carne, Purefoods-Hormel, Magnolia Butter and Magnolia Cheese. These special dishes would surely complete your romantic evening. Come to the San Miguel Culinary Center for a demonstration on Feb. 8, Friday, 2 p.m. at the Activity Center of SM Megamall Building A. Entrance is free. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91, local 402-405.

New office, new force arises

ON JAN. 31, Dentsu Asia Network formally announced the creation of the Communications Excellence Dentsu in Manila. Cocktails with the officers of Dentsu Asia Network and prominent personalities from the local media were held at the 33rd floor of Tower I at the Enterprise Center in Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

SOL Platon, SVP-media director (second from left), with (from left) Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito Olarte, Inquirer account manager Aggie Pinili and Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

NANAGAS, Shutto and guest flank the House Speaker

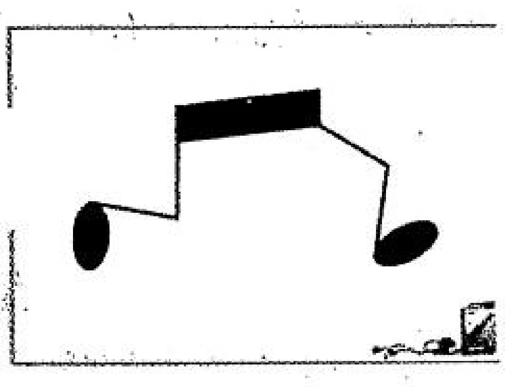
DIRECTOR Nobuo Abe (left), president Nonna Nañagas, and Dentsu Asia Network chair Noriyuki Shutto raise their glasses

DISTINGUISHED Japanese guests discuss

KUH Ledesma mesmerizes

NORIYUKI Shutto and his wife accompanied by Nañagas and Nobuo Abe

HOUSE Speaker Jose de Venecia graces the affair



'Creative' ads are not luxuries, but necessities

From page C8

matter of both simplicity and common sense.

He notes that there is "a very strong and understandable urge exhibited by people on the inside of any company to assume that all those on the outside share their own level of knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the company's products."

Planners are there to bring both client (and agency) gently back to reality. Surprisingly perhaps he is no fan of "conventional" research. (A process that involves bringing "ordinary people" to an anonymous office building somewhere and quizzing them about ads while client and agency people watch them behind two-way mirrors.)

He says the best way to talk to people is, amazingly enough, in the place where they normally consume the product. So, if you want to find out what people think about beer, talk to them in a bar. Makes sense.

One prominent supporter of this view is Scott Bedbury: formerly worldwide director of Nike's advertising and now SVP Marketing at Starbucks.

"We never pre-tested anything we did at Nike, none of the ads. I had an agreement (with the agency) that as long as our hearts beat we would never pre-test a word of copy. It makes you dull. It makes you predictable. It makes you safe," he said.

Steel notes that "Nike's advertising over the years has of course been among the best, if not the best in the world."

Most people will say this is a good idea—as long as it's for someone else. As one prospective client told me the other day: "How much has Volvo spent on building up this 'safety' idea? Can we afford this?" The simple reply of course is: "Can you afford not to?"

If you get known for doing one thing, and one thing well, you will gain a loyal clientele. If no one knows what you stand for, no one will likely remember whatever it was you did, or even what your name was.

Sociologist makes landmark ads

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

J. WALTER Thompson's creative director Robert Labayen may not be a household name but his works are. After all, who can forget actress Vilma Santos' famous line for Eskinol—"My cherished possession," Jollibee Foods' "I love you Sabado" or the award-winning ad "Donut Buy" for the 1999 Advertising Congress?

Dream: To be a writer

Though not totally unrelated to what he is doing now, Labayen's first dream was to become a writer. While in school in Sorsogon, he was the literary editor of the college paper and he also wanted to become a journalist.

But a cousin suggested advertising and after briefly working as a clerk in a factory, he decided to take his cousin's advice and knock on the doors of ad agencies, even if he had no idea what the business was all about.

One door opened—J. Romero and Associates. That was 1981. And from then on his career went uphill from a copywriter to an advertising and marketing associate.

He jointed Ace Saatchi and Saatchi in 1985 as copywriter and became vice president and creative director within seven years. On his last and 14th year, he helped Saatchi win Agency of the Year Award.

In 1999, he joined J. Walter Thompson as its executive vice president and executive creative director. Since the business of advertising largely involved creative work, creative directors end up holding top posts in the firms.

His agency's latest works include the controversial "Sa bukid walang papel" series for Joy bathroom tissues, Red Horsé's "Wet n' Wild" commercial and Carl's Jr.'s "Monk" ad.

How do creative people brainstorm?

"We joke a lot," Labayen says. "There are no formal discussions, it's all about selling ideas. There is an atmosphere of openness."

The client states the product and marketing objectives and then the agency collaborates with client on how to get these messages across.

JWT's ROBERT Labayen dreams of a partnership with the Education Department to help teachers and students discover their gifts of creativity.

Nothing offensive

Labayen notes that one thing is definite—clients do not want to offend any sector of society.

"In terms of making sales, they go for tested commercials."

He admits that there is a long debate on creating creative ads and ads that sell. A great ad may not necessarily sell the product while a mediocre ad can boost sales.

"There is a tendency for firms to just follow what the competition is doing. There is less effort to make brands less distinct from others," he says.

Labayen, however, believes that the role of ads is to "build a distinct brand image which is not about the physical attributes but the emotional attachment."

"Advertisements make ads memorable. They make you buy on impulse," he says. "The goal of every ad should be to build the distinct personality and characteristic of a brand."

But he adds that many good products do not necessarily have strong brands.

He says Filipino ads are very safe. "We don't want to offend. Filipino humor is self-deprecating, we do not want to put people down."

"I wish to strike a good balance between selling products and upholding values. For example, we must tell mothers why it is good to raise smart kids but not say that unsmart kids are less lovable. We must sell beauty but not say that beauty is everything. I must sell alcohol but not say that the drink makes the man," Labayen states.

No recognition yet

And he acknowledges that Filipino creatives have not yet been given the international recognition that many deserve. But this does not mean local ads have not been effective.

"I hope that Filipinos will be less insecure and apologetic about the advertising that we do. We may not win a lot of international awards but many respectable companies are using Philippine ads as global templates because of their insight and effectivity."

"While we are still hungry for awards, I realize it is important to do more ads that win the Filipino heart. For example, 'Gracia,' 'Suportahan Ta Ka' (Saatchi), 'Lumen' (Lintas), 'Ikiskis mo sa pilapil' (JWT) may be entirely meaningless to a Cannes jury but were big hits among the local audience," Labayen adds.

Agency goals

His goals for JWT are for it to become "a partner of the Department of Education to help teachers and students discover their gifts of creativity. Creativity is power and a lot of people don't know how much of it they have."

"We have developed our own JWT Fresh Ideas training module and it helps bring out the creativity even among people who think they are not creative," he adds.

JWT Manila's newest project is called JWT Fresh. It's about inventing and re-inventing methods of working and communication. With JWT Fresh, JWT Manila hopes to lead the industry in innovation s.

JWT Manila is determined to become the best environment for professionals who must become "the best that they can be."

"BE MY VALENTINE."

Nothing says it better than an Equitable Card.
Use your Equitable Card from February 12-17
and earn DOUBLE E-POINTS in the
Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Program.
This Valentine's, everyone should have 1.

Make Valentine's Day more special!
Use your Equitable Card at these selected establishments and enjoy discounts and freebies until March 31, 2002.

VISA
VISA Electron
MasterCard
JCB
AMERICAN EXPRESS

Equitable CARD
Everyone should have 1.

Equitable Hello Service 867-7977
Equitable Card Center: 203 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, Philippines (632) 867-7977 (Metro Manila)
1-800-1-888-3264 (Domestic Toll-Free) View your billing statements online at www.equitablecard.com

"With Real Hair From Svenson, No One Would Think I'm Really Bald!"

"I was often teased that I could be spotted easily in a crowd because of my balding head. I was resigned to the fact that I'd be bald for life but Svenson changed my mind with the **Non-Surgical Hair Integration Method.**

"I looked at other hair replacements but they appeared obviously fake to me. **Svenson was the only one that offered additional hair which was as natural as my own remaining hair---right down to the color and texture.**

"Even when I went swimming with my new hair, my friends were convinced by how natural and how versatile it was. Having hair once more has definitely made me look a lot younger. My kids' friends have told me that I look more like a big brother than a 50-year-old father! With hair this real, Svenson has made sure I won't worry about baldness anymore!"

Don't go for fakes or imitations. Get real hair only from Svenson. [illegible]

Gil Beltran
Insurance Underwriter

Gil with new, natural hair from Svenson

Gil BEFORE Svenson

Svenson
INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

Certified by: ASI Asian Society of Trichology

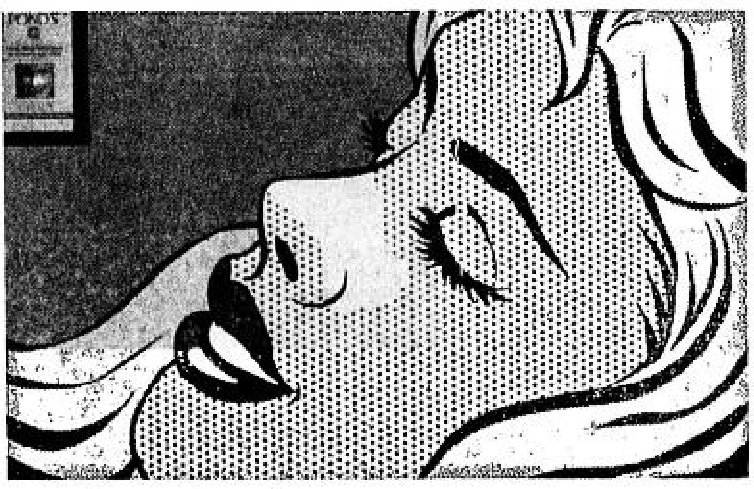
MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
Solid Mills Bldg.,	Cedar Executive Bldg.,	Federal Tower Bldg.,	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.,	Keppel Centre,
dela Rosa St.	Timog Avenue	Dasmariñas St.	Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Cebu City
817-2260	372-6631	243-0128	842-1389	032-2340851
817-2194	372-6632	244-8913	842-4181	032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

BUSINESS*Friday*

'Creative' ads are not luxuries, but necessities

By David Guerrero
Executive Creative Director, BBDO/ Guerrero Ortega



"NO MATTER which agency buys space in a newspaper, the cost to the client is going to be about the same. The value to that client of buying that space will vary enormously according to what words and pictures he decides to fill it with.

The word "creativity" can mean a lot of things to a lot of people; but at least in its very limited advertising sense; it can surely mean only one quite specific thing.

It means the inventiveness and skill with which expensive time and space, which if left empty would be worthless, can be coaxed into returning more than their cost to the advertiser.

"The more creative the advertisement, the better the return."

Jeremy Bullmore's comments are an interesting counterpoint to the fact that the cost side of advertising is haggled endlessly, and often in a competitive bid situation, whereas the contribution of the work to generate greater awareness and sales is usually taken for granted.

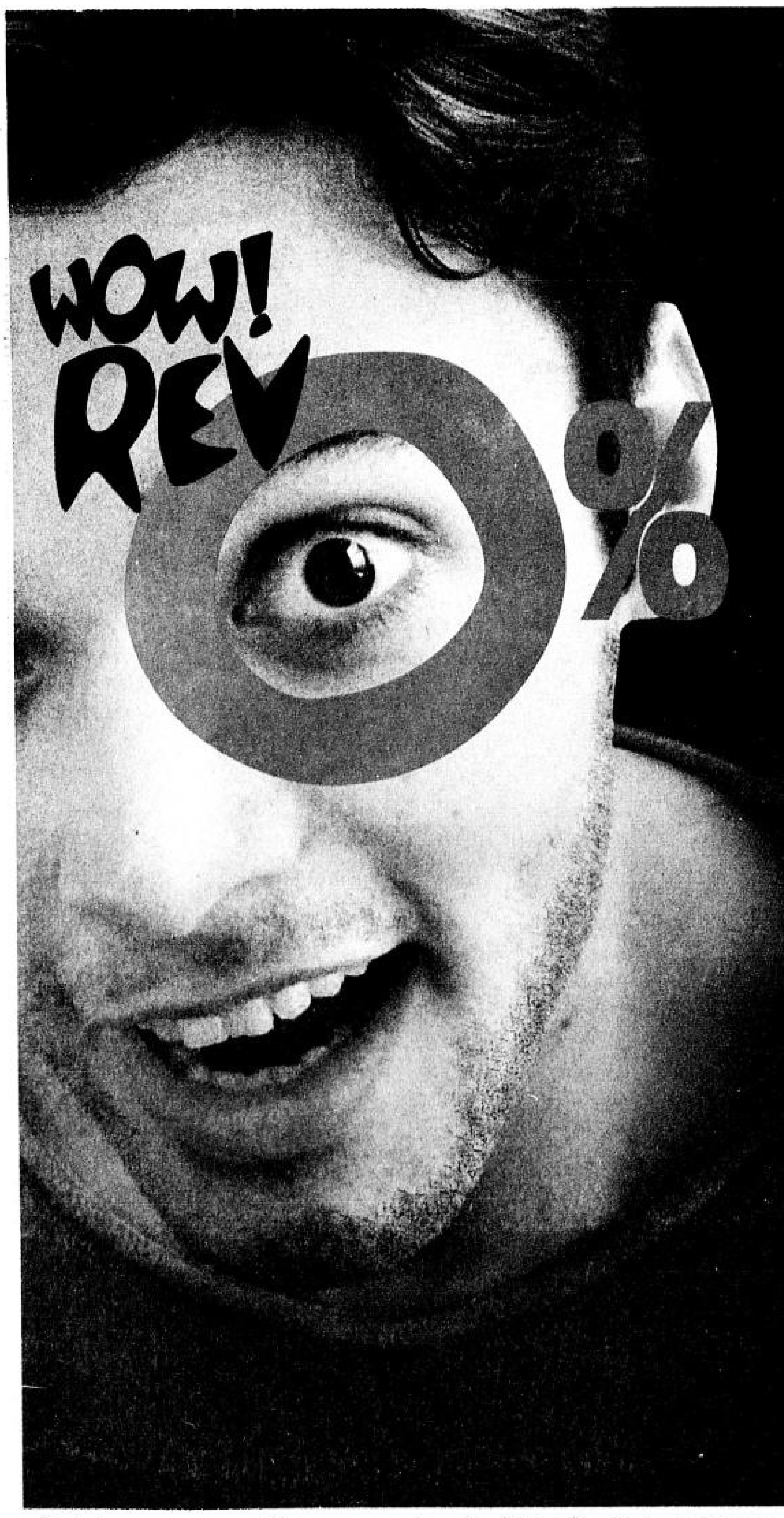
As legendary American adman Howard Gossage put it: "Our first duty is not to the old sales curve, it is to the audience."

He goes on: "Any salesman will get it right off the bat. They are used to regarding their audience first and foremost, because if they don't please them, they won't get the order."

He's quoted in a fine recent book called "Truth, Lies and Advertising." Its author, Jon Steel, (who was behind the "Got Milk" campaign in the United States) argues that getting the message right is a

CREATIVE/ C7

Passion



ZERO INTEREST DEAL
at 50% DOWNPAYMENT DEAL*

LOW DOWNPAYMENT SCHEME
PAY AS LOW AS ₱82,600**

LOW MONTHLY DEAL
PAY AS LOW AS ₱6,440 FOR 60 MONTHS, 50% DOWNPAYMENT**

FLEXIBLE FINANCING TERMS
FROM 12 TO 60 MONTHS TO PAY

SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR CASH BUYERS

Subject to bank approval
* ALL MODELS EXCEPT VX200 WITH LEATHER SEATS, 12 MONTHS SCHEME
** FOR DLX GAS

ME AND MY REVO

TOYOTA

Ride your Revo now! Rush to your nearest Toyota dealer for more details.

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 443-8778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 08 / 364-1547 to 60 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7216 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 82 / 85 / 927-7263 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7368 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 810-2222 / 819-7481 to 86 / 844-7944 / 844-8472 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 848 / (088) 858-9054 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1181 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8870 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 928 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0851 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2076 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2904 / (082) 234-8840 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-0118 to 119 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3406 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-6831 to 34 / 682-2584 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 08 TOYOTA SHAW, INC. 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-8854 to 84

Promo period: Feb. 1-28, 2002

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0211 Series of 2002

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

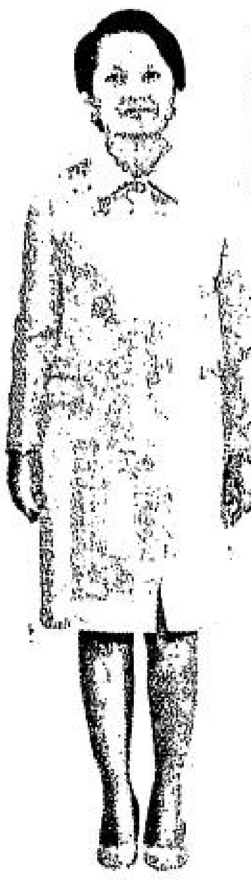
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Chelo Banal-Formoso, Editor ◼ Marge C. Enriquez, Subsection Editor

Trend Spotting

D1



THE COATDRESS is one of GMA's new looks. It is also worn in travels. The princess-cut creates the illusion of reducing inches and adding height.

Dunkin' Darling Donuts
₱29.50
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Pasalubong ng Bayan
Feb. 1 to 18, 2002

The President suits up to the presidential style

With the help of her style team composed of Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, J.C. Buendia and Inno Sotto, President Macapagal-Arroyo is making the glorious transition from dressing for comfort to dressing for success

By Marge C. Enriquez

HEADS turn as President Macapagal-Arroyo strides across the room—not because of her position, but because of her style. She cuts an imposing figure in a light-colored suit, with understated accessories and soft makeup topping off her corporate look. She is no ordinary woman on the go. Although it's common knowledge that fashion was not her interest (at least not before she became president), Macapagal-Arroyo has learned to understand the importance of dressing up to look the part of the chief executive, and not necessarily to impress.

Although there is less gender bias in the presidential post, women face bigger challenges than male presidents do. If they are photographed in drab attire, the public doesn't take it too kindly. To image consultants, the mousy getup sends the message that she is not smart enough for her post.

With the help of Joanne Zapanta-Andrada,

THE PRESIDENT/ p.D4

zed™

This Chinese New Year, saddle up with zed.

Get a kick out of some of the freshest downloads in the Year of the Horse. From Chinese Horoscopes to Fortune Telling to Feng Shui. With so many zed services, you'll surely find something to suit your character. 恭喜發財

www.zed.com

How to get a logo or ring tone:

1 Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO WISDOM or TONE GONGXI
2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving logo or ring tone.

zed services for the Chinese New Year:

SERVICE	KEYWORD	EXAMPLE
FENG SHUI	FENG <category> O=Office, H=Home, L=Love	FENG L
FORTUNE TELLING	FORTUNE <category> <out come of 6 coin tosses> H=Heads, T=Tails	FORTUNE WISH HTHTTH
CHINESE HOROSCOPE	<zodiac animal> <category> L=Love, F=Fortune, C=Career	TIGER C

Type in keyword and send to 288.

Chinese Logos:

美 LOGO BEAUTY
家 LOGO FAMILY
乐 LOGO FELICITY
友 LOGO FRIEND
福 LOGO HAPPINESS
闲 LOGO IDLENESS
爱 LOGO LOVE
和 LOGO PEACE4
富 LOGO RICHNESS
道 LOGO TAO
智 LOGO WISDOM

Traditional Chinese Song:

Gong Xi Gong Xi — TONE GONGXI
Ying Chun Hua — TONE YINGCHUN

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Logos and ring tones work only on selected Nokia cell phones and are ₱15.00 per successful download. Other Services are ₱2.50 per download. For a list of keywords, type in [illegible] and send to 288.

Style fit to a T

By Camille Cruz – Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

RED high wedge-heeled mules, P1,690; black evening pumps with teardrop accents, P1,875

BLACK mule, P1,975; horizontal striped multicolored bag, P1,150

BEING confined to a bed can be rewarding for some people. It puts the body to rest and the mind at work.

When Tisha Garcia lay in bed when she was pregnant, her mind was preoccupied with visions of bags and shoes. Those visions have come true. The cardboard dummies of those dream bags and shoes are found standing in her store, T.

T was inspired by the growth and success of Kate Spade. It's a store that does not try to be up-to-date. It draws inspiration from everywhere. A pair of black evening pumps and a purse were taken from the example of a stylish grandmother.

Every two weeks, T has something at least new in the store. The unpredictability is important, according to Tisha, in order to keep people coming back for more.

Unpredictability is the rule of the game at T. It draws inspiration from everywhere

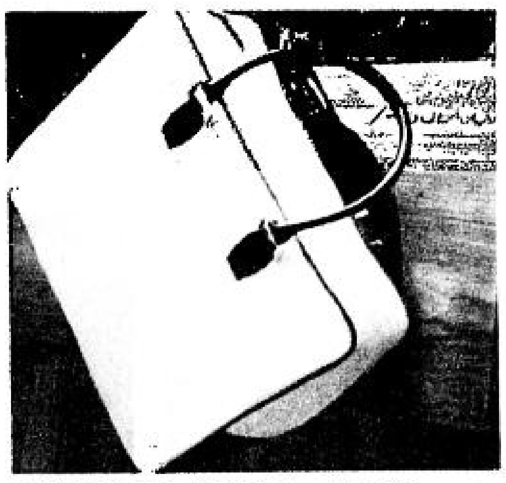
The store varies its fabrics. One day, there will be suede; another, reptile. The products fit any mood and are not only for one occasion. There are bright orange horizontals and red polka-dotted baguette bags. T makes it a point to complement bags and shoes.

Shoes are mostly step-ins and sandals. Wedge-heels and mini-heels can be found in styles that you probably will not see in Vogue. But they are still modern.

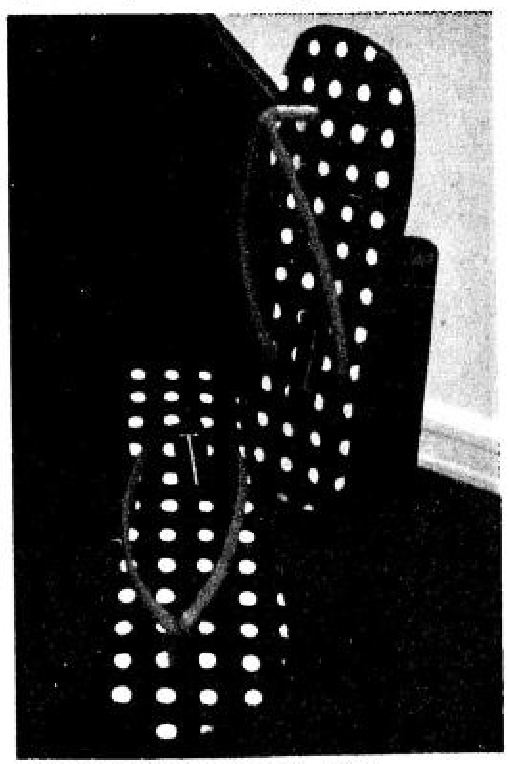
E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

ALL ITEMS FROM T, 2/F POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL; TEL. 898-0936

REPTILE-SKIN mules with mini pump, P1,785



TRAVEL light with this bag, P1,495

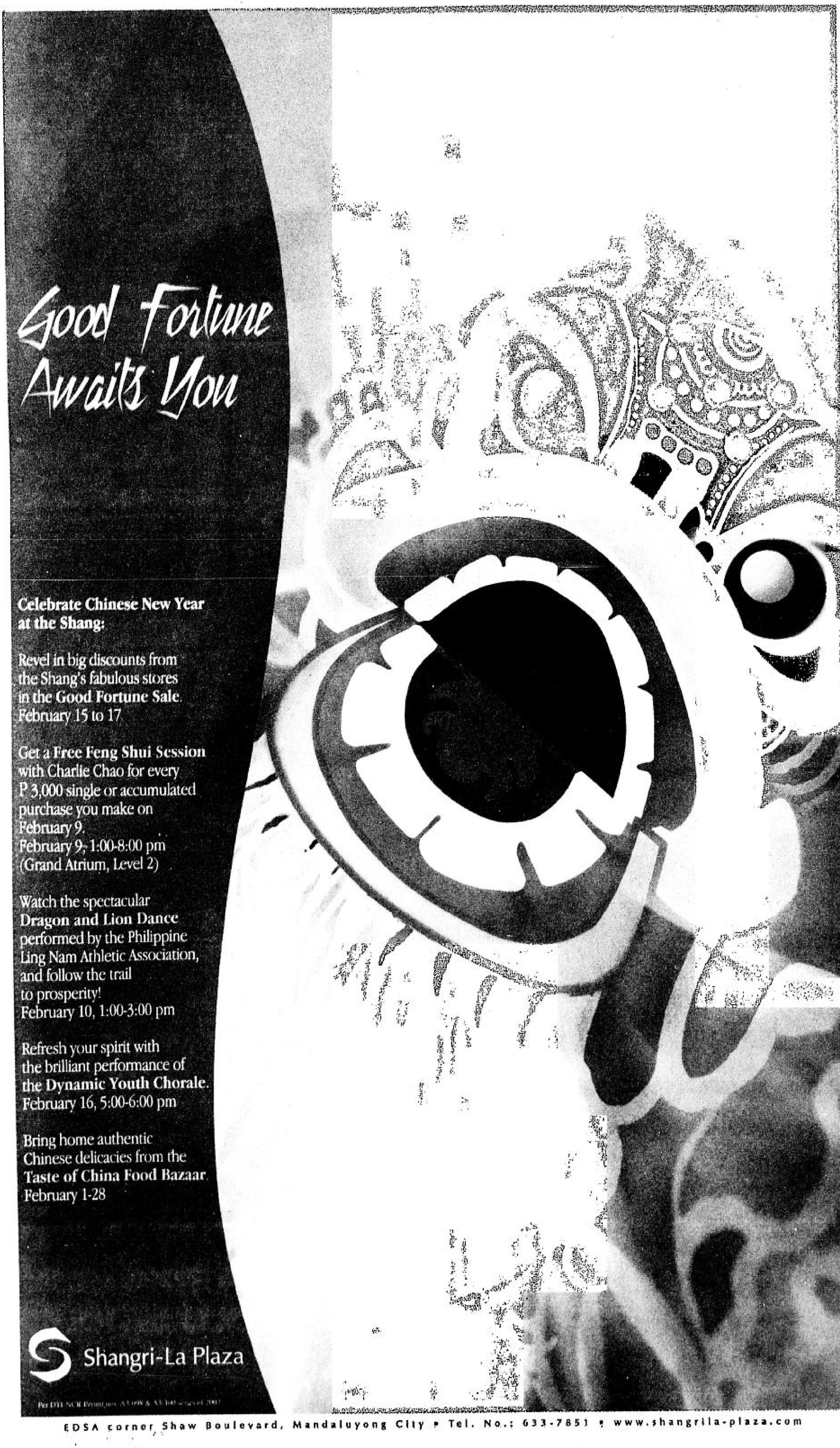


POLKA-DOTTED slippers, P399

Time out

THE NEW Got Time? watch collection at Cinderella stores tells time with a lot of attitude. Jelly Gems by Got Time? is a water-resistant, hip digital watch in techno colors and transparent straps with aluminum casing. Its promotional price is P449.

Got Time? watches have features that keep you not only on time, but also in fashion. Hip watches at hip prices, the new Got Time? collection is exclusively available in Cinderella stores located at SM Megamall, Glorietta and Robinsons Place.



Good Fortune Awaits You

Celebrate Chinese New Year at the Shang:

Revel in big discounts from the Shang's fabulous stores in the **Good Fortune Sale**.
February 15 to 17

Get a Free Feng Shui Session with Charlie Chao for every P 3,000 single or accumulated purchase you make on February 9.
February 9, 1:00-8:00 pm
(Grand Atrium, Level 2)

Watch the spectacular **Dragon and Lion Dance** performed by the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association, and follow the trail to prosperity!
February 10, 1:00-3:00 pm

Refresh your spirit with the brilliant performance of **the Dynamic Youth Chorale**.
February 16, 5:00-6:00 pm

Bring home authentic Chinese delicacies from the **Taste of China Food Bazaar**.
February 1-28

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Hail Mary!

Betrayed by men, Mary Kay Ash struck out on her own and became the woman behind the billion-dollar makeup line

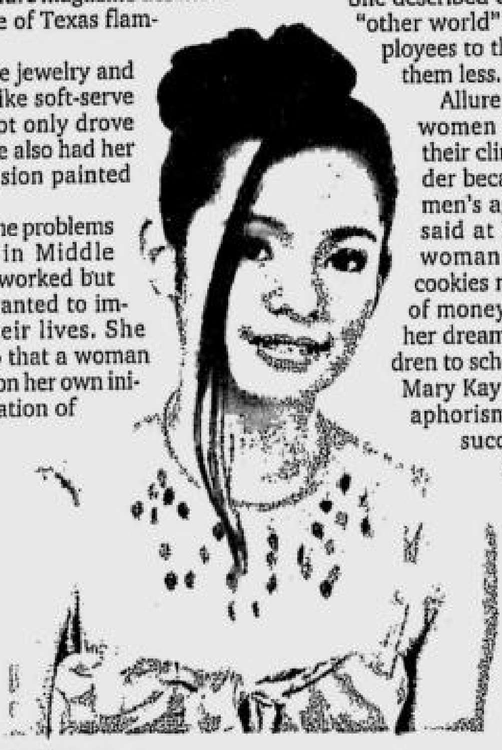
Photos by Patrick Uy

MARY Kay Ash's life was as colorful as the makeup line that she created. With her pink Cadillac, diamond rocks, mink coat, bouffant hairdo and strong makeup, the late founder of a billion-dollar, direct-selling company appeared to epitomize feminine frivolity. In fact, she used woman power to build her dream.

This month's issue of Allure magazine describes Mary Kay as the "epitome of Texas flamboyance."

"She wore baseball-size jewelry and blond wigs that looked like soft-serve vanilla ice cream. She not only drove her own pink Cadillac, she also had her 19,000-sq ft Dallas mansion painted pink," wrote Allure.

Mary Kay understood the problems of women, especially in Middle America, who were overworked but not appreciated. They wanted to improve the quality of their lives. She founded her company so that a woman could earn money, based on her own initiative, not on the evaluation of her superiors.



DAY look

Mary Kay got married at 17, had three children and was divorced. To support her family, she had to work at home by selling household tools and then knocked door to door to sell her wares. In another firm, she recruited salesmen. Although she had charisma and worked harder than her male colleagues, her male superiors promoted her male assistant instead.

Betrayed and always underestimated by men, the then 45-year-old Mary Kay started her own company. All the sales force had to do was pay for a Mary Kay beauty kit and sell the makeup for twice the price. The incentives ranged from commissions, pink Cadillacs (in the Philippines, a pink Honda), Hawaiian vacations and diamonds.

She described corporate America as the "other world" that bound female employees to the Bundy clock and paid them less.

Allure quoted her as saying that women lost their femininity in their climb up the corporate ladder because they had to acquire men's aggressive behavior. She said at Mary Kay Cosmetics, a woman could be "a milk-and-cookies mom" and make the kind of money that would let her buy her dream house and put her children to school.

Mary Kay was also known for her aphorisms. For instance, "To be successful here, your blood needs to be pink." Also: "P&L doesn't stand for profit and loss but for people and love." And "God didn't have time to make nobody, only a somebody."

One of her best quotes was her theory on Creation. Allure quoted her as saying, "When God made the world, He proclaimed, 'That's good.' And then He made man and said, 'That's good.' And then He said, 'But I think I can do better.' So He made woman."

Mary Kay Philippines offers a free Revitalizing Shower Gel for every purchase of any Mary Kay Valentine Gift Set. Valentine Gift Set 1 is Elige Eau de Parfum and Elige Indulge for P3,190 while Valentine Gift Set 2 includes Journey Eau de Parfum and Domain Cologne for P2,790.

Ongoing until Feb. 28, call 893-4855 or visit La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

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Jollibee Journal

Jolly Millionaire Drawn

Jollibee Officials, with student Renzo Pocholo C. Salao pick the grand prize winner of the Jolly Millionaire Promo

Everyone wants to be a millionaire as shown by the millions of entries Jollibee received for the Jolly Millionaire Promo.

With every P100 food purchase, customers got their Scratch and Win cards that entitled them to win cash prizes or Jollibee food products. All card holders vied for the P1,000,000 cash prize.

The big draw was held last January 15, at the Jollibee Greenmeadows Libis Branch. Little Renzo Pocholo C. Salao, a Jollibee customer and a first grader from the Ateneo, helped pick out the winning entry together with Jollibee officials and DTI representatives. And from 1.7 million entries, Frederick Gloria was declared the lucky millionaire. Congratulations!

Mekeni na sa Jollibee!

Jollibee, Hetty, Mr. Yum and Popo join celebrations for the store opening of Jollibee Robinsons Star Mills

Pampangeños have another reason to "Bee Happy". Another Jollibee branch was opened last December 21 at the newly built Robinsons Starmills, making it the 4th Jollibee store in the San Fernando area.

The grand opening was held a day before, and was heralded by marching bands and adorable mascots headed by Jollibee.

Guests included Jollibee officials and local personalities, led by the Mayor of San Fernando himself, the Hon. Rey Aquino, MD.

So the next time you find yourself in Pampanga, *mekeni na sa* Jollibee at Robinsons Starmills!

Going Loco over coco!

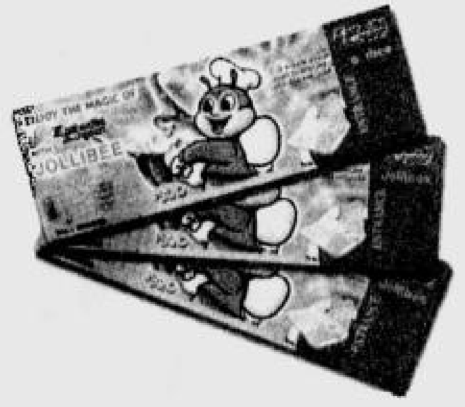
Colorful street performers line the streets of San Pablo Laguna, all in the name of coconut.

Jollibee took to the streets and joined the people of San Pablo, Laguna in their city's celebration of the Coconut Festival.

The festival celebrates the town's thriving coconut industry. San Pablo is renowned for its coconut-based products and handicrafts, some of which were displayed and sold during the night bazaar along Rizal Avenue.

The highlight of the week-long fiesta was the colorful street parade, with student performers from the different schools and colleges, clad in vibrant costumes made from the coconut. Of course, no parade would be complete without lovable mascots like Jollibee, Hetty, and Twirlie who entertained and delighted the crowd. Till next year!

Presenting The Jollibee-Enchanted Kingdom Ticket Bundle



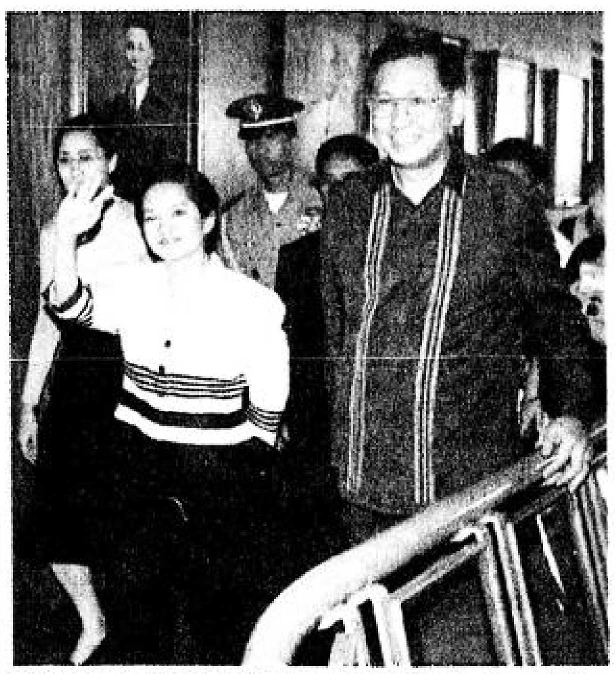
Have a double dose of happiness and excitement as Jollibee presents The Jollibee-Enchanted Kingdom Ticket Bundle.

Get to experience the thrills and chills at Enchanted Kingdom for only P320 on weekdays, and P400 on weekends. Each ticket also comes with a free Jollibee Chickenjoy Meal and Juice.

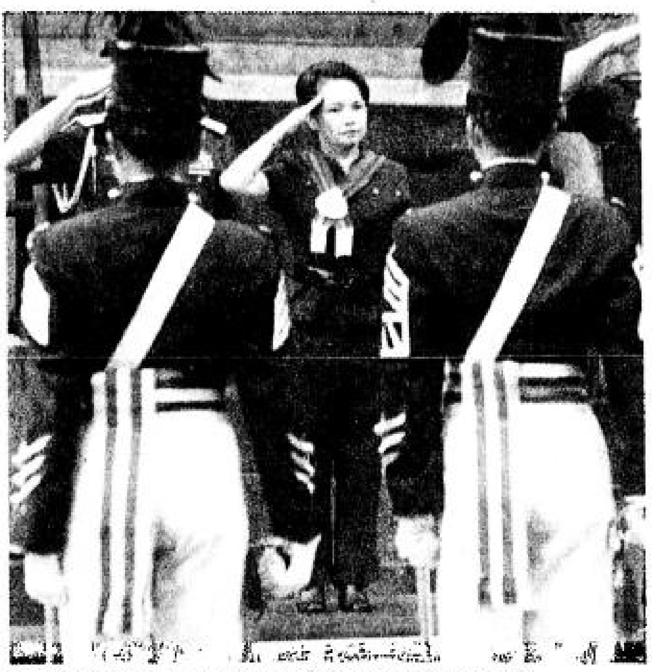
The Jollibee-Enchanted Kingdom Ticket Bundle is available in selected Jollibee stores in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Taguig, and Laguna until March 15, 2002. The Magic is Here so Bee Happy!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions, please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy



GMA wore a nautical-inspired outfit on her second day in office. Padded shoulders and horizontal stripes made her look stumpy.



THE CROTCH in the front of the pants is not only unflattering to women, especially if they are in high positions; the extraneous detail also cuts the height.

The President suits up to the presidential style

From page D1

the President has made the transition from dressing for comfort to dressing for success.

Personal cabinet

President Macapagal-Arroyo modestly describes her wardrobe as corporate. Her dressing room is adjacent to the bedroom. It has a closet of pantsuits. The next is for suits and another for evening gowns. "In my bedroom I have a closet of antique things. In that closet, I have my sports things, my lingerie, my nightgowns, T-shirts for golf, my pants, my shawls and pashminas, my handkerchiefs and my pullovers," she said.

Since the President isn't used to cold weather, a shawl is a must.

A whole closet is devoted to formals as she is a wedding sponsor every week.

Nobody has ever given her any golf wear. Her sporting clothes were acquired when she was still vice president. When she plays golf (her handicap ranges from 30 to 36), the President picks up an item at the club.

When she first stepped into the office, social X-rays noted her severe fashion sense. Zapanta-Andrada collaborated with Julius Caesar Buendia and Inno Sotto to provide her with a new look.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is the first to say that she is not a fashion-conscious person. Her former wardrobe reflected this belief. She wore simple clothes that she had accumulated through the years. They suited her as a regular citizen, but as President, she realized that she had to revamp her collection," said Buendia.

Unlike a typical couture client, Macapagal-Arroyo is neither fussy about clothing details nor imposing on designers. "As far as she's concerned, you're supposed to know what you're doing," said Sotto. When she visits his shop for fittings, the President's mind is on national affairs not on where the dress dart is properly tucked.

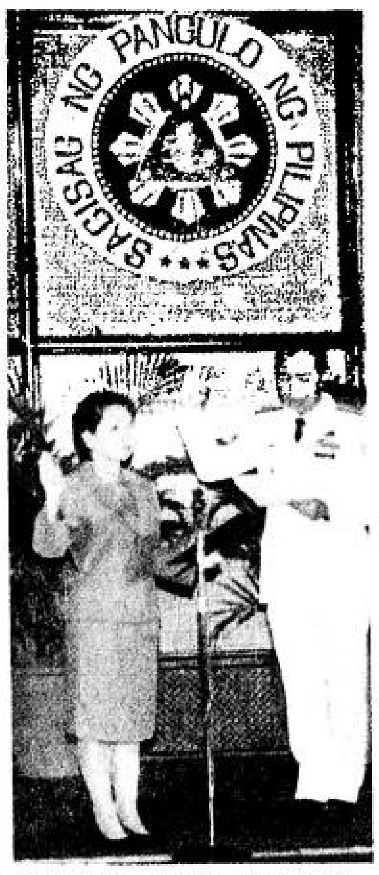
Sotto first met GMA, then vice president, when she became a sponsor in the Ty-Tan wedding. After that she went back to Sotto to order for gowns and pantsuits.

"I try to keep it to solid colors, not too many details and clean lines. I take into consideration her office, and things she attends to. When she goes up and down platforms, I'd prefer that she wears pants," said Sotto.

Repeat

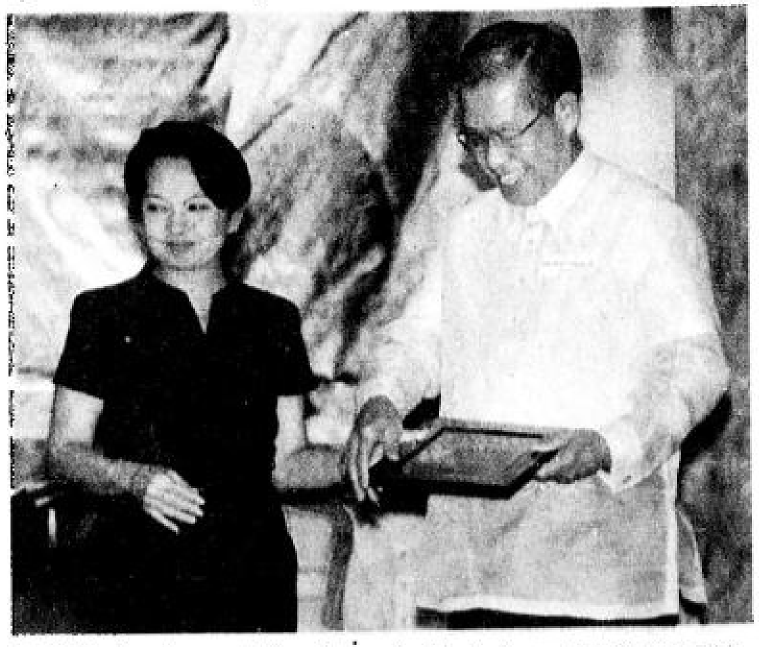
Buendia explained his role in the presidential makeover. "As per instructions given by the protocol office through the President's image consultant Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, Inno and I have to both follow specific guidelines on diplomatic dressing so in some ways, the clothes we make have similar qualities to them. But Inno will always have his special imprint on all his clothes and I will have a part of my style in mine. I admire Inno greatly. He is a believer in placing emphasis on GMA's lovely face and does so by the use of scarves and creative collars. I, on the other hand, have a penchant for placing details on the sleeves and using fabric flowers," said Buendia.

THE PRESIDENT/ p.D5


SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

BLACK shoes with a light suit emphasizes her short build. The occasion was the oath-taking of generals in Malacañang.

EVEN off-hours, the President must never show signs of letting up in the wardrobe department.



A BELT that is too thick and too dark cuts her petite figure. This pantsuit was worn during the Chino Roces Freedom Award rites.

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The President suits up to the presidential style

THE PRESIDENT walking alone after a press conference at the Palace. Inno Sotto pays attention to proportion. The periwinkle suit with matching shoes creates a taller and leaner line.

From page D4

"I made her tailored clothes that were precise in cut, as she has a petite frame. I used creaseless materials like crepe, which was practical as she would go from function to function without the chance to change. Colors ranged from pastel to jewel colors. It all depended on the type of function she had to attend that day."

For special trips, to flatter the host country, the President wears clothes that suggest her appreciation of the host country's culture and its indigenous fabrics and motifs. Said Sotto, "In China, I did Mandarin collars for her. In fabrications I would not wear anything that's shiny upon arrival. That's for a party. When she has to meet the emperor, president or prime minister, I wouldn't think of a woman traveling in shantung."

For the President's visits to North America and Europe, Sotto made mostly coatdresses.

During the Marcos years, it was considered a fashion crime to be seen wearing the same outfit in several occasions. Today, using the outfit again and again means good design value. It also means flattering the designer.

"She'll repeat what she has worn in previous visits. She's practical; she doesn't wear an entirely new wardrobe. It reflects her personality," said Sotto.

If she were to wear dark suits, Sotto would accessorize them with a bright-colored wrap.

Start from scratch

"Given the chance, I would want to change a lot of things. I'd like to start from zero. I would create a basic wardrobe. If she were to go to Payatas or to a disaster area, she'd have to be properly attired in pants. I don't think a safari jacket with a thick belt is for her. I'm more particular with proportions, color and the right accessory. I don't want too many details. The more the fabric, the less the accessory. And shoes, I've been very particular about those. I didn't want too many things on her. Even her Filipiniana attire should be kept minimal. I wanted to give her a chance to wear her estate jewelry," said Sotto.

Zapanta-Andrada also sought the help of Raul Francisco and Cristina Tuason, proprietors of Voyage and Twist, for her accessories. The bags are scaled to her petite frame even if somebody else always has to carry them.

"I don't think she commits fashion blunders now that her wardrobe is foolproof. She can pick any item in there and it will work for her perfectly," said Buendia.

The Cabinet and the military don't care how President Macapagal-Arroyo is suited up as long as she performs. However, intelligence complemented by power-dressing savvy makes a smashing combination.

UPON HER arrival from her state visits at the Centennial Airport, GMA wears a monochromatic suit. A bright scarf gives color to the frock.

BEAUTY NEWS

Color me young

HAIRCOLORING is no longer the turf of the graying market. In the past five years, the haircoloring market in the Philippines has nearly doubled.

According to surveys, there's a high penetration (51percent) of consumers between 18 and 29 who are home color users. This means that 94 percent don't need to cover gray hairs. Some 30 percent lighten the hair to be in fashion, another 15 percent prefer a darker skin tone. About 46 percent refresh their color.

L'Oreal, the French multinational that lays claim to being the leader in haircoloring, has introduced Feria, a multifaceted shimmering hair color. It not only provides permanent hair color, but it also gives twice the shimmering highlights. The Feria formula consists of a reduced background for greater color purity and intense reflections of high and low shades. It also comes with the aromatherapy fragrance ampoule and a deep conditioner to prevent dryness.

L'Oreal has other products for a specific niche. Excellence Crème is for superior gray coverage. Casting Colorspa is a gentle non-ammonia formula that covers first grays. For the men Color Fitness is a 10-minute treatment. The Highlights Kit is designed for Asian hair.

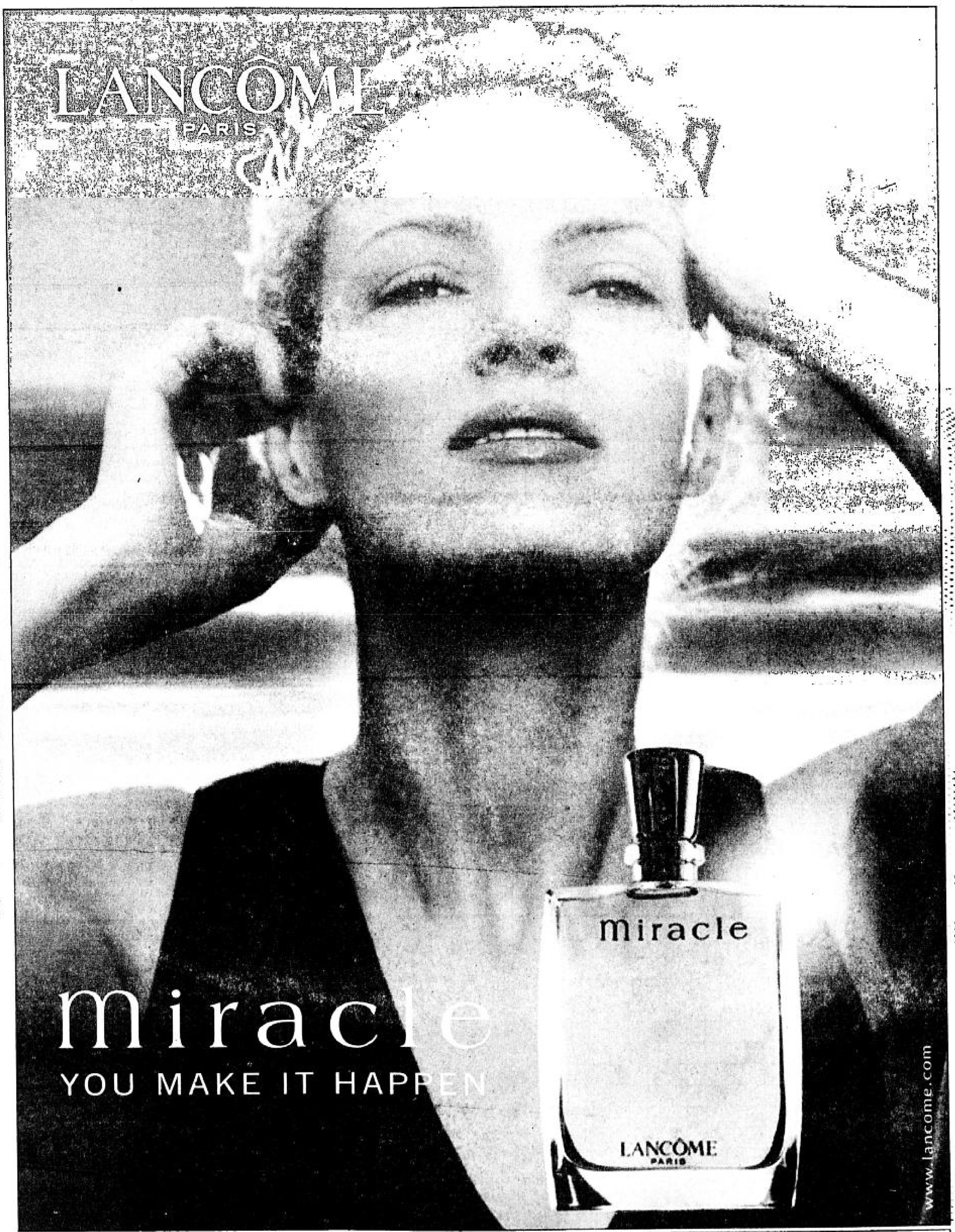
Perfecting your skin

IN ASIA, fair skin and fine pores are a premium. L'Oreal's Plenitude has developed a line to minimize enlarged visible pores. Excess sebum production is one of the major causes of pore dilation due to hormonal factors, stress and environmental aggression such as pollution and humidity. Irregular skin texture is due to the accumulation of excess dead cells on the skin surface, which clog pores, leading to skin irregularities.

Plenitude's Skin Refiner contains salicylic acid that is known for its gentle keratolytic action that exfoliates the dead cells and unclogs pores. The pure algae extract acts at different levels for perfectly clean-looking pores. It regulates sebum secretion and prevents pore dilation. The purifying action prevents pores from clogging.

Skin Refiner consists of a cleanser to unclog pores and wash away impurities. The astringent dries out imperfections and prepares the skin for treatment. The Pore Minimizing Essence contains optical diffusers that reduce the visibility of pores and irregularities on the skin surface. The Pore Minimizing Moisturizer has a mattifying agent that absorbs excess sebum.

Laboratory studies showed a high percentage of visibly minimized pores by 94 percent and skin refining effectiveness by 97 percent.



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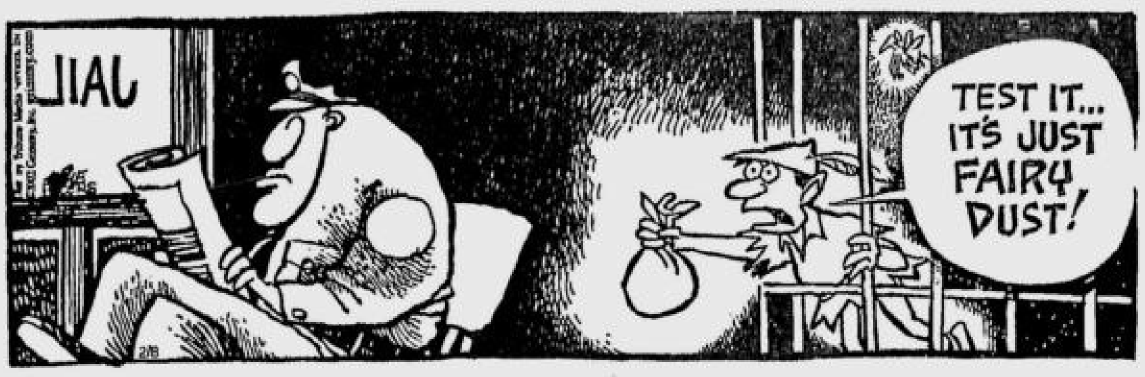
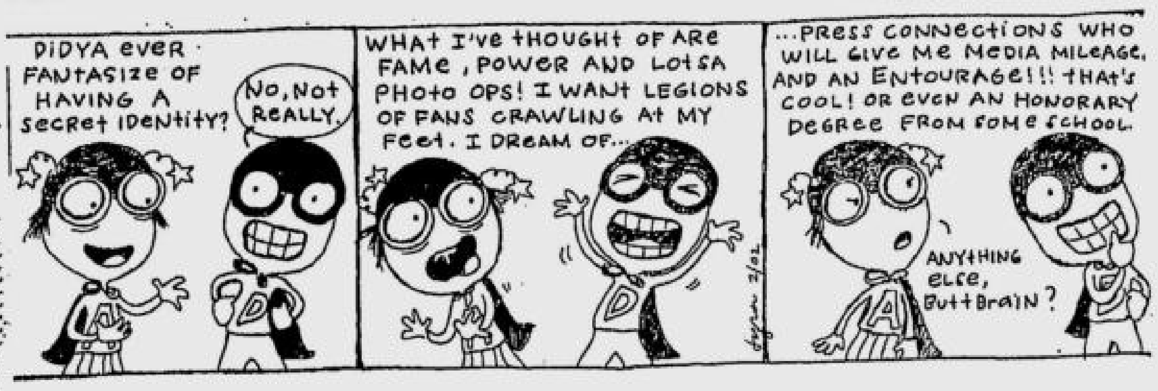
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


JAIL
TEST IT... IT'S JUST FAIRY DUST!
2/8

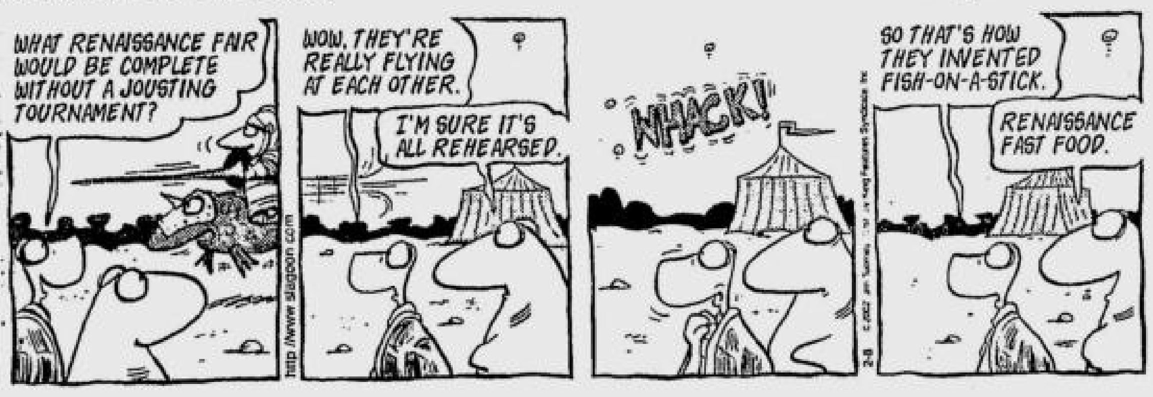
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DIDYA ever FANTASIZE OF HAVING A Secret IDENtity?
No, Not REALLY.
WHAT I'VE THOUGHT OF ARE FAME, POWER AND LOTSA PHOTO OPS! I WANT LEGIONS OF FANS CRAWLING AT MY Feet. I DREAM OF...
...PRESS CONNECTIONS WHO WILL GIVE ME MEDIA MILEAGE, AND AN ENTOURAGE!!! THAT'S COOL! OR EVEN AN HONORARY DEGREE FROM SOME SCHOOL.
ANYTHING else, ButtBrain?
2/02

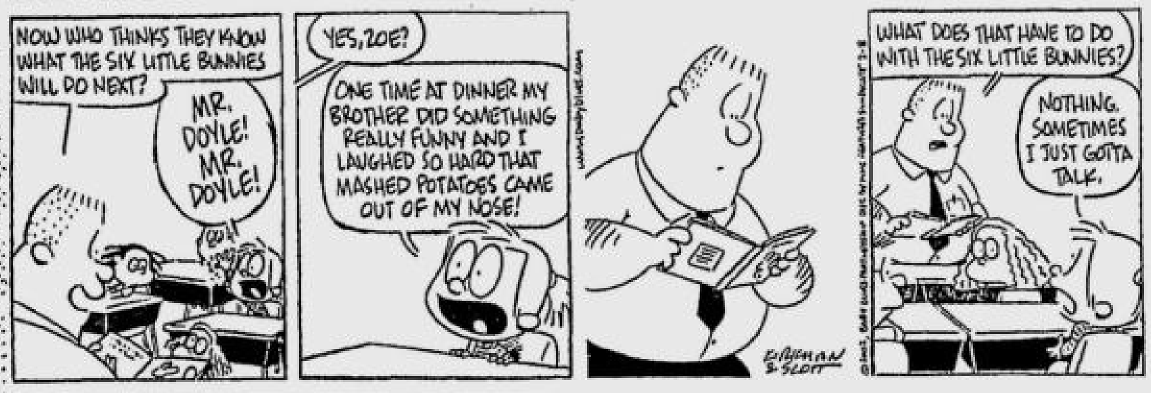
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT RENAISSANCE FAIR WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A JOUSTING TOURNAMENT?
WOW, THEY'RE REALLY FLYING AT EACH OTHER.
I'M SURE IT'S ALL REHEARSED.
WHACK!
SO THAT'S HOW THEY INVENTED FISH-ON-A-STICK.
RENAISSANCE FAST FOOD.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-8

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW WHO THINKS THEY KNOW WHAT THE SIX LITTLE BUNNIES WILL DO NEXT?
MR. DOYLE! MR. DOYLE!
YES, ZOE?
ONE TIME AT DINNER MY BROTHER DID SOMETHING REALLY FUNNY AND I LAUGHED SO HARD THAT MASHED POTATOES CAME OUT OF MY NOSE!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE SIX LITTLE BUNNIES?
NOTHING. SOMETIMES I JUST GOTTA TALK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Lemmon, Mary Steenburgen, Nick Nolte, Robert Klein

Happy Birthday: You will be the one who moves into the role of leadership regarding personal financial affairs this year. You should take a serious look at your insurance policies and other personal papers. You will have greater need to spend time with the one you love and you will have a greater sense of what will make you happy. Your numbers are 9, 13, 18, 22, 34, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't count on something that hasn't already happened. You will be disappointed by the events going on around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be quick to respond to an opportunity. You can make positive changes to yourself as well as to your outlook. Your actions will bring about changes that you can be proud of.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have to get your papers in order. You may experience a loss if you don't sort out financial matters. Long-term investments are your best bet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take this opportunity to talk to someone you care about. Let your feelings and intentions be known. If you don't share your thoughts you can't expect to change anything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can get ahead by talking to people who can make a difference to your position. Don't be afraid to help those that work under you. You'll gain their respect and get favors in return.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can't just sit at home all alone today. Make plans to do something that will bring you into contact with new and exciting people. You may have a problem with an older family member.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't expect to get help from anyone you live with. Problems with contractors or other services for your home can be expected. Put your efforts into your career where you do stand to get ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Family trips will be hectic but rewarding. Greater communication with relatives and friends can be expected.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Unexpected financial gain is apparent. Put your heart and soul into getting ahead in your chosen field. Don't let a partner limit you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may be a little emotional today. Keep busy and you will avoid some unsavory situations. Keep a positive attitude and refuse to let anyone bring you down.

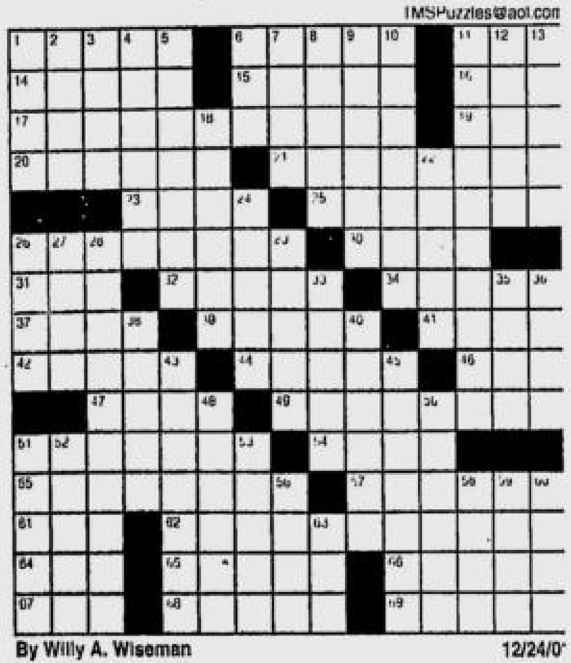
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The answers are right in front of you. If you take time to review your past you will find it easy to make decisions concerning your future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have so much to offer. Your humanitarian outlook will attract people who need help. Your compassion and generosity will be admired.

Birthday Baby: You were born with intuitive insight into matters of truth. You possess a strong will and mental independence. You can be impractical, eccentric and self-destructive if you become discontent. You are always looking for adventure.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY

12/24/0

ACROSS
- 1 Card message
- 6 Improvise
- 11 Corner pipe
- 14 Roof overhang
- 15 Inclined not to
- 16 Two-finger sign
- 17 Daredevil from Montana
- 19 Gabor sister
- 20 Nielsen of "Airplane!"
- 21 With arms bound
- 23 City on the Irtysh River
- 25 Head cavities
- 26 Stood for
- 30 Smallest change
- 31 Bonzo or Clyde
- 32 Falling ice
- 34 Setting
- 37 Enthusiastic opinion
- 39 Roper and Lincoln
- 41 Villainous
- 42 Bookcase level
- 44 Dawn
- 46 Two-time U.S. Open golf champion
- 47 Chilean tennis star Marcelo
- 49 Frequenter
- 51 Looks the other way
- 54 Hoodwink
- 55 Vacillated
- 57 Chita of "West Side Story"
- 61 Part of SASE
- 62 Convenience store chain
- 64 Skier Tommy
- 65 Other side
- 66 Fight venue
- 67 Patriotic men's org.
- 68 Eldritch
- 69 VCR button

DOWN
- 1 Scottish dance
- 2 Suffer from
- 3 St. Laurent of fashion
- 4 Pittsburgh philanthropist
- 5 Inuit people
- 6 The Greatest
- 7 Over one's head
- 8 Blue jeans
- 9 Promoting peace
- 10 Writers' credits
- 11 All square
- 12 Earthen dike
- 13 Directs
- 18 Get cozy
- 22 Prevention measure?
- 24 Ships' lengths
- 26 Saturn and Mercury
- 27 Colorful marine fish
- 28 Outback of Queensland
- 29 Evidence scruples
- 33 Added some shading
- 35 World's longest river
- 36 Different
- 38 Prufrock's creator
- 40 Surgical thread
- 43 Anticipate
- 45 Of a part of the eye
- 48 Peaceful
- 50 Midnight rider
- 51 Agenda entries
- 52 Salami variety
- 53 Break off
- 56 Moore of "Disclosure"
- 58 Tonight and a week from tonight
- 59 Actress Russo
- 60 Art sch. subj.
- 63 "Bill __, the Science Guy"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	E	L	E	V	I	S	E	S	■	I	S	A	A	C
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	A	L	■	M	A	N	T	A
P	I	T	U	I	T	A	R	Y	■	P	U	T	T	S
I	D	O	■	L	E	G	S	■	M	O	N	I	E	S
D	E	N	T	I	N	E	■	S	U	S	A	N	N	E
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S	C	R	A	G	■	M	O	L	E	S	■	V	A	T
T	I	E	R	■	S	A	T	E	S	■	P	E	T	E
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M	U	T	A	N	T	S	■	R	E	S	T	A	F	F
E	L	A	N	D	S	■	H	U	E	S	■	B	E	E
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P	E	S	T	S	■	A	S	S	O	R	T	E	R	S

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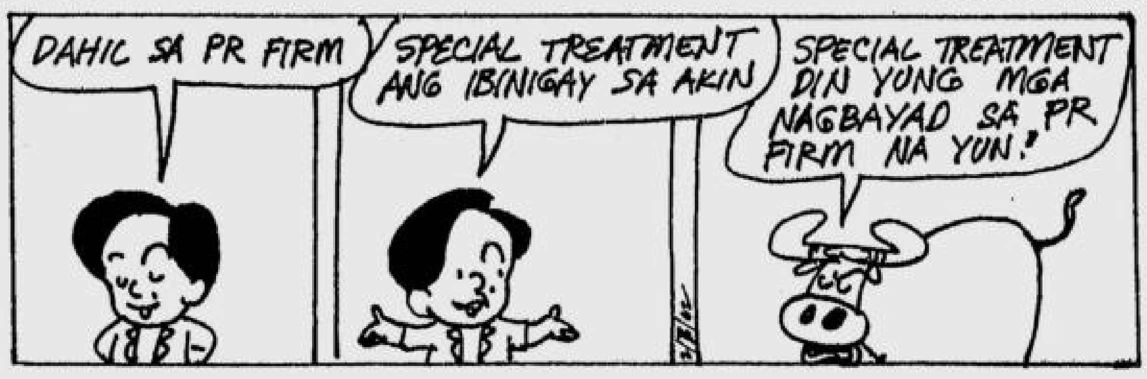
12/24/0

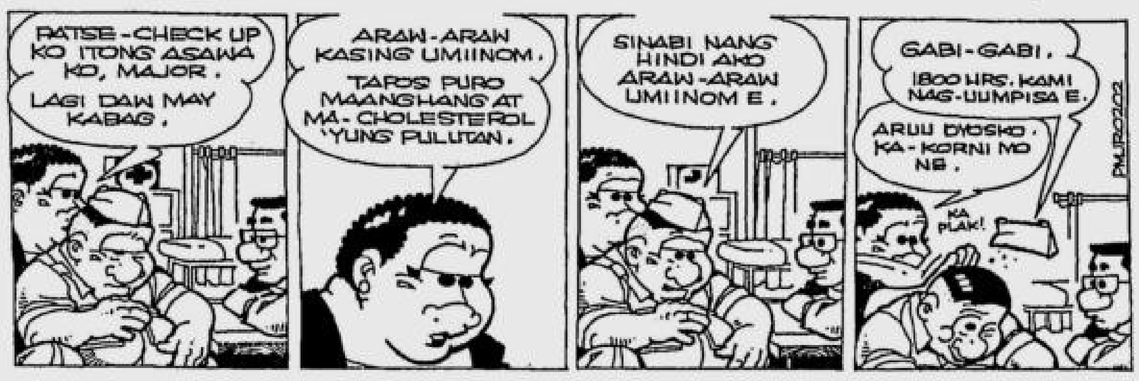
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL SA PR FIRM
SPECIAL TREATMENT ANG IBINIGAY SA AKIN
SPECIAL TREATMENT DIN YUNG MGA NAGBAYAD SA PR FIRM NA YUN!

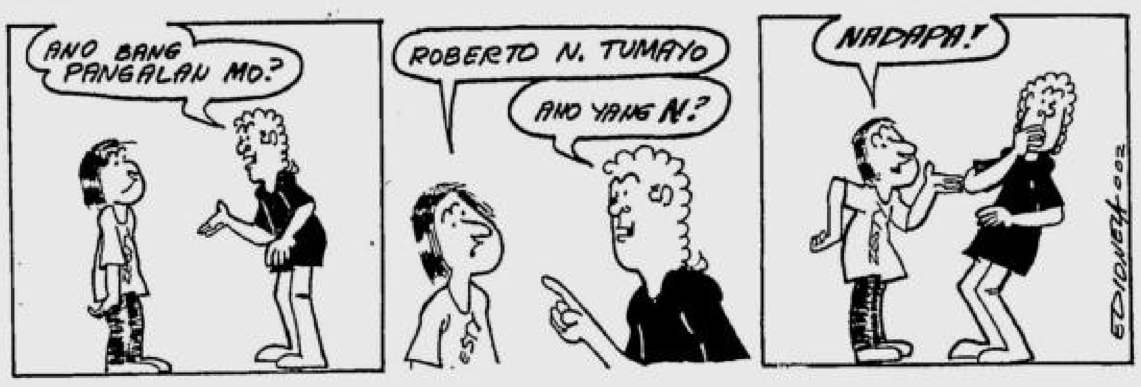
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PATSE-CHECK UP KO ITONG ASAWA KO, MAJOR.
LAGI DAW MAY KABAG.
ARAW-ARAW KASING UMIINOM.
TAPOS PURO MAANGHANG AT MA-CHOLESTEROL 'YUNG PULUTAN.
SINABI NANG HINDI AKO ARAW-ARAW UMIINOM E.
GABI-GABI.
1800 HRS. KAMI NAG-UUMPISA E.
ARUU DYOSKO. KA-KORNI MO NE.
KA PLAK!
PMJR020202

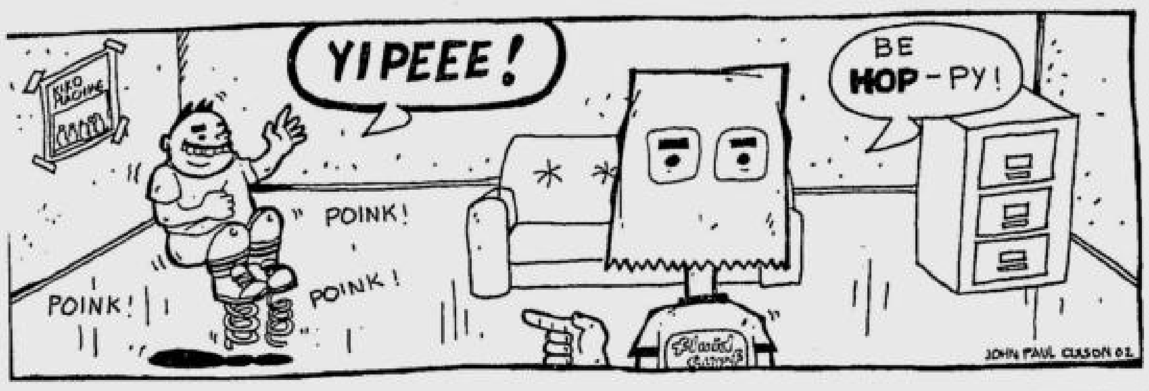
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANO BANG PANGALAN MO?
ROBERTO N. TUMAYO
ANO YANG N.?
NADAPA!
EDIONELA 002

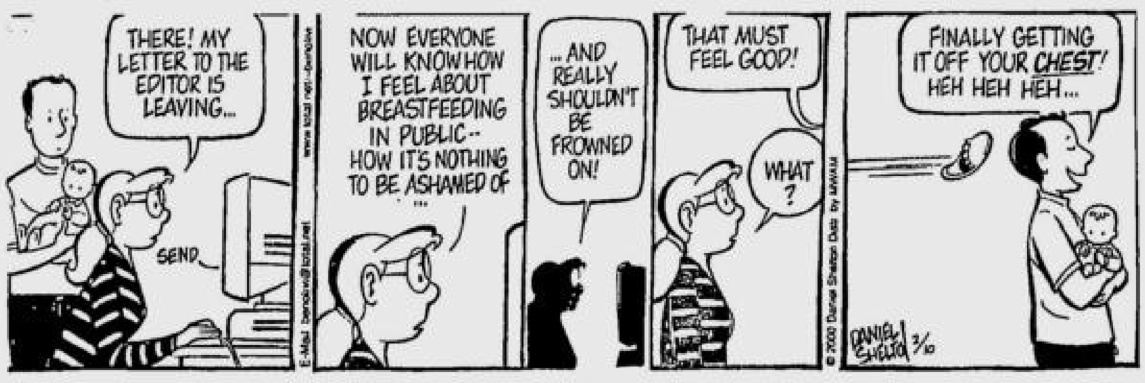
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


YIPEEE!
BE HOP-PY!
POINK!
POINK!
POINK!
JOHN PAUL CUISON 02

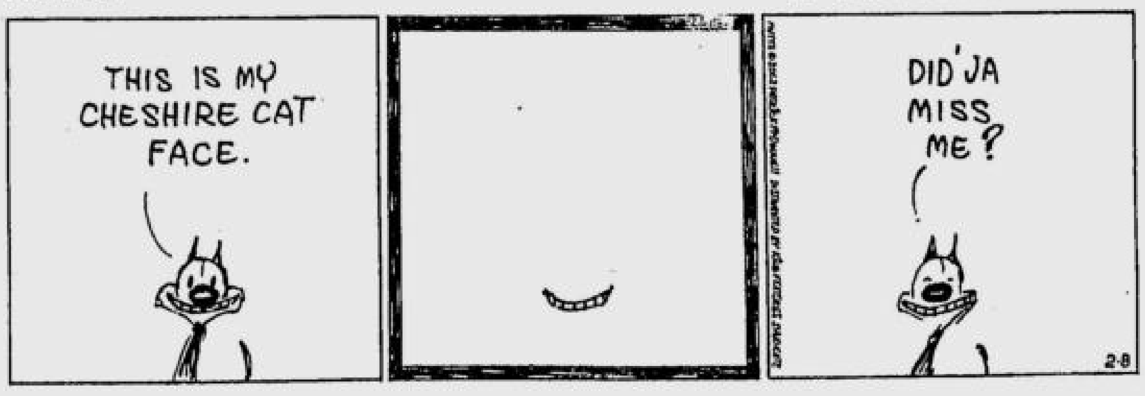
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE! MY LETTER TO THE EDITOR IS LEAVING...
SEND
NOW EVERYONE WILL KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC-- HOW IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF...
...AND REALLY SHOULDN'T BE FROWNED ON!
THAT MUST FEEL GOOD!
WHAT?
FINALLY GETTING IT OFF YOUR CHEST! HEH HEH HEH...
DANIEL SHELTON 3/6

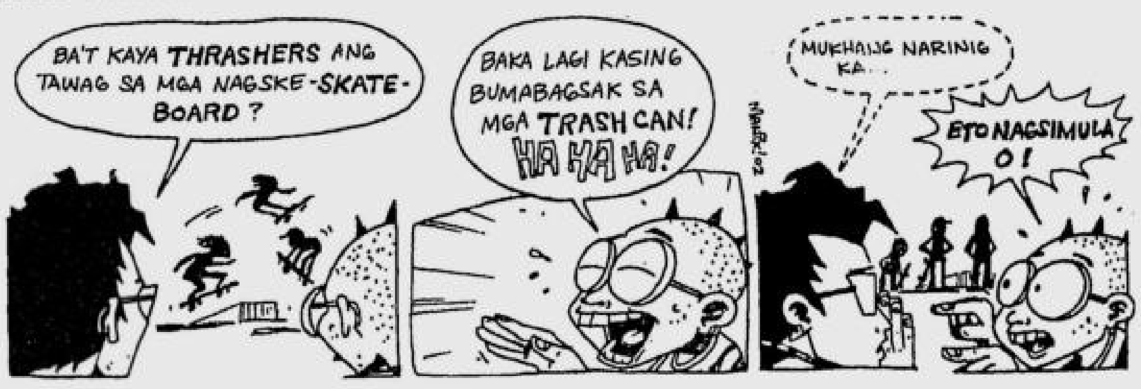
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY CHESHIRE CAT FACE.
DID'JA MISS ME?
2-8

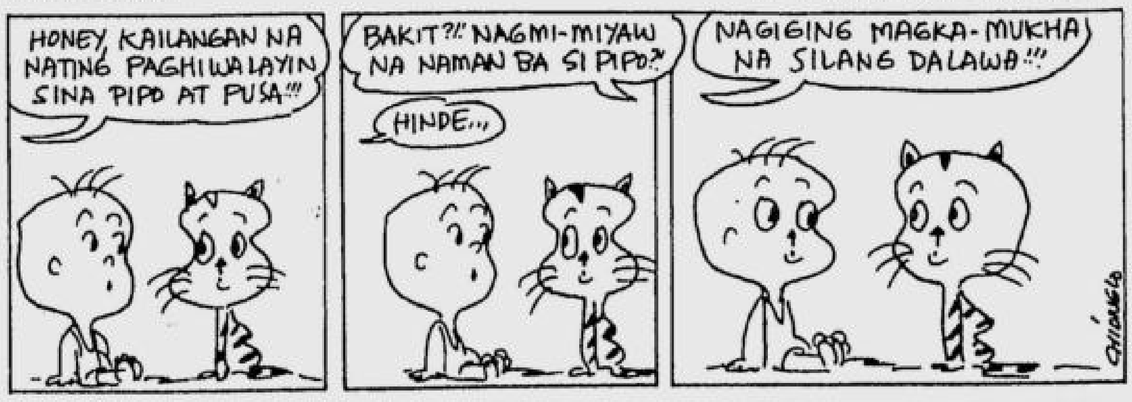
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T KAYA THRASHERS ANG TAWAG SA MGA NAGSKE-SKATE-BOARD?
BAKA LAGI KASING BUMABAGSAK SA MGA TRASH CAN! HA HA HA!
MUKHANG NARINIG KA...
ETO NAGSIMULA O!

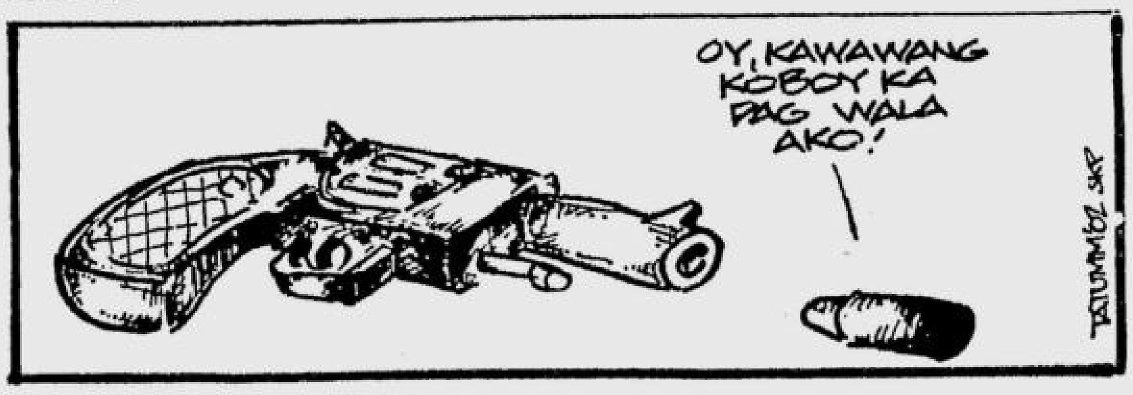
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HONEY, KAILANGAN NA NATING PAGHIWALAYIN SINA PIPO AT PUSA!!!
BAKIT?!! NAGMI-MIYAW NA NAMAN BA SI PIPO?
HINDE...
NAGIGING MAGKA-MUKHA NA SILANG DALAWA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, KAWAWANG KOBOY KA PAG WALA AKO!
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NEW PERFUME LAUNCHED

Pure Vetiver, part of the best-selling Latin perfume line Azzaro, was launched recently at SM Megamall. The product launch featured a video presentation, a talk by Viviane Amans, Loris Azzaro representative, and a mini fashion show. Manny Distor hosted the event, which featured the band SkiN. Special gift packs were given away to all the guests. The Azzaro product launch was sponsored by Charlie Ken Marketing Corporation.

Airline launches new, 'fun' uniforms

DESIGNER Rajo Laurel has created new uniforms for the cabin crew of Cebu Pacific that connote fun, comfort and relaxation.

The uniforms, which will be launched this month, feature a subtle interplay of color, denim-like elements in pieces that can be mixed and matched.

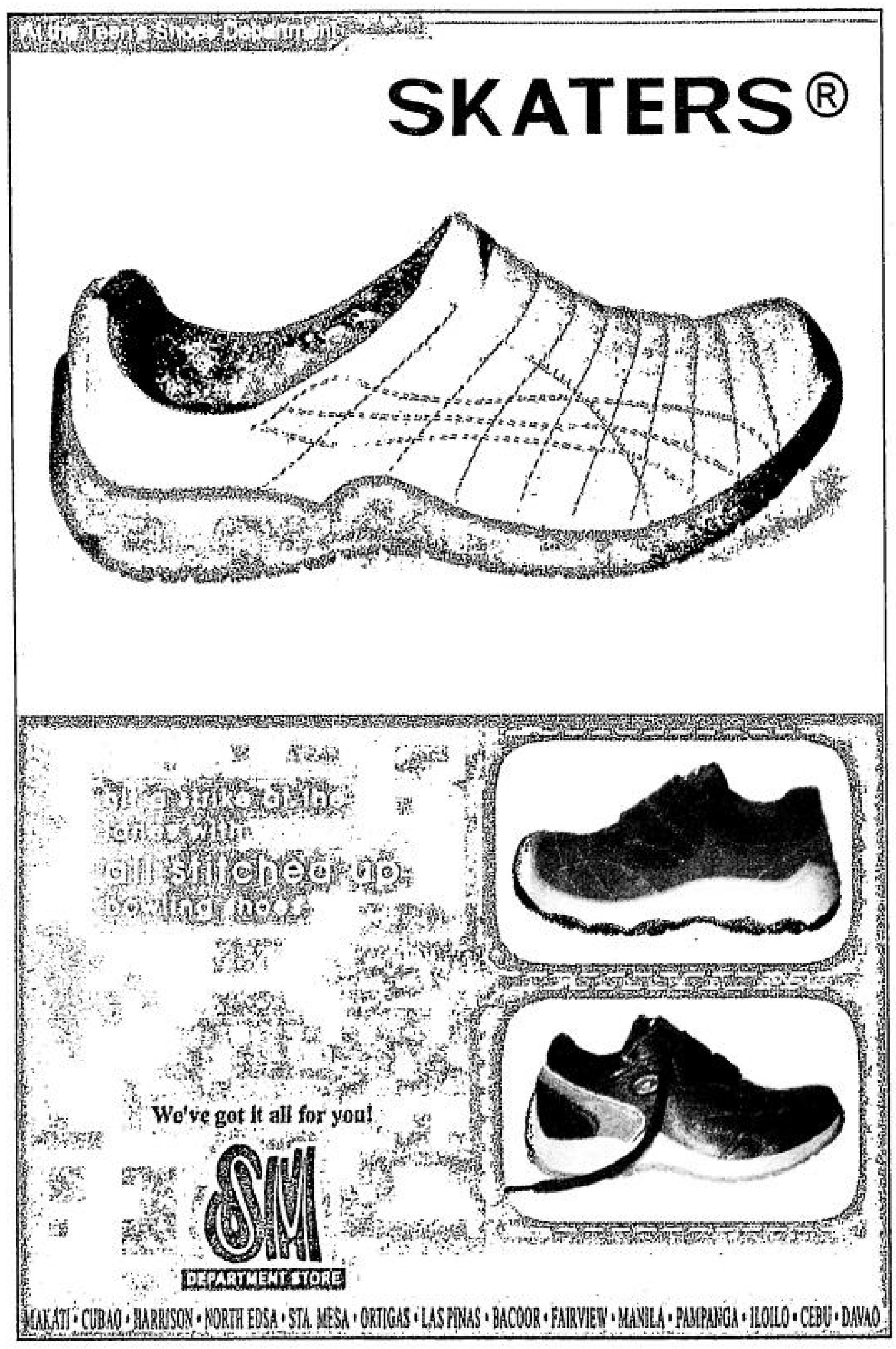
"We wanted our uniforms to be consistent with the airline's personality," Tina Trinidad, Cebu Pacific's vice president for inflight services, said. "They should be pretty, playful, distinctly Cebu Pacific, at the same time, functional and non-restrictive to the wearer. They should also make passengers feel comfortable and at ease with our flight attendants."

Laurel says, "I've been a Cebu Pacific customer for quite some time now and I'm quite familiar with the way they operate. I know that the airline's strengths are affordability, their personalized service and being on-time."

He said he immediately thought of the airline's friendly, casual, personalized service and no-nonsense performance.

Laurel developed "capsule" wardrobes, with pieces that allow for a quick change of look. For the ladies' weekday attire: straight-cut skirt that falls softly above the knees and a neoteric boxy-shaped jacket, both in navy, embellished with teal top stitching; and a blouse in funky teal checks. The men will greet passengers in navy slacks complimented with a navy jacket lined in teal and a crisp white button-down shirt. The weekends showcase a polished sporty look with khaki shorts for the ladies, khaki trousers for the men and ochre jackets for both.

LET'S DANCE
Sofia Zobel-Elizalde invites everyone to shake and shimmy at the new Steps Studio at Karivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension. The studio offers adult ballet, Latin fitness, stretch and tone, yoga and, of course, ballet at all levels. Call 843-8472 and 757-2984.



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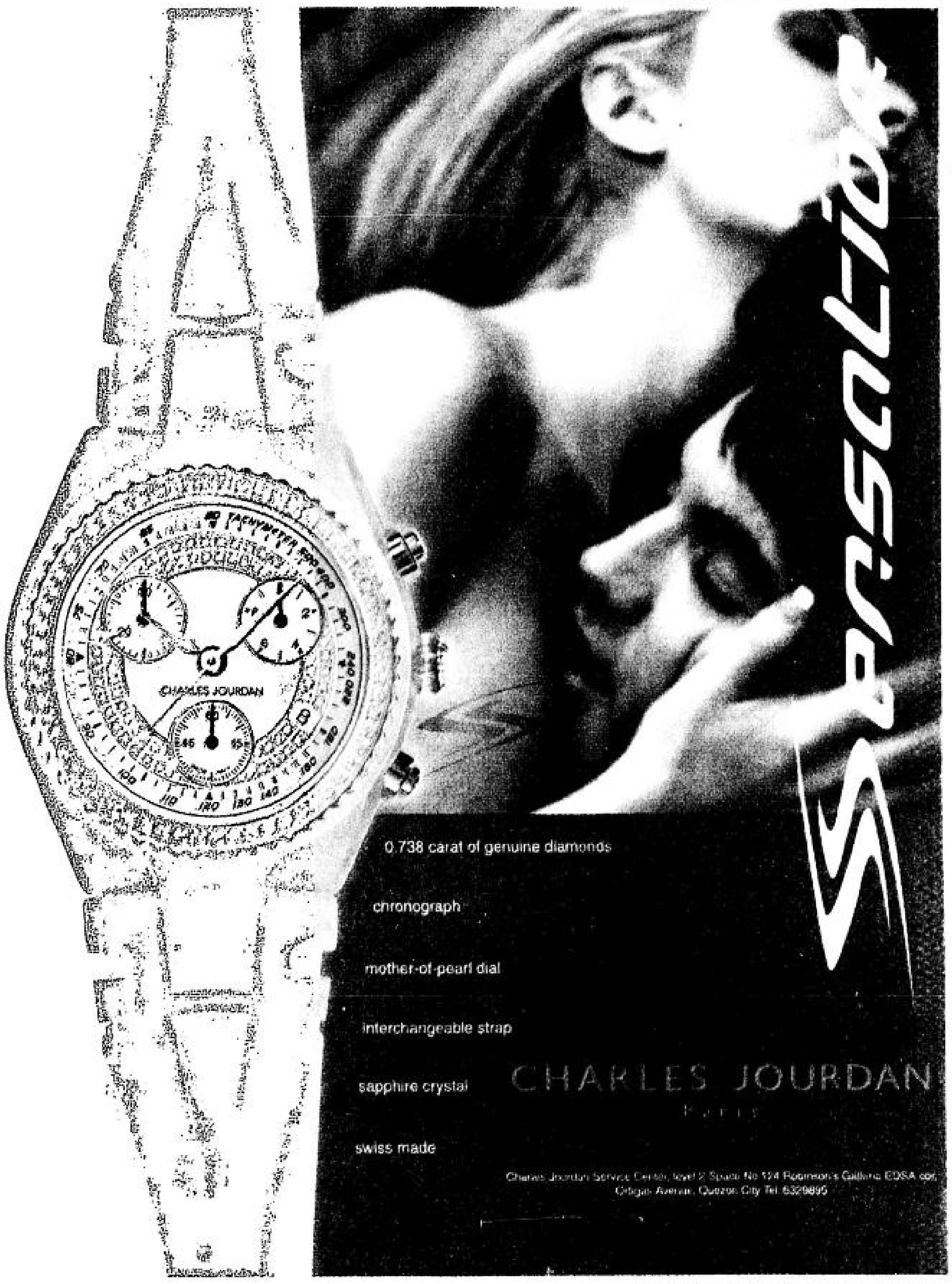

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The art—and fun—of the Shih Tzu

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(Story on page E2)

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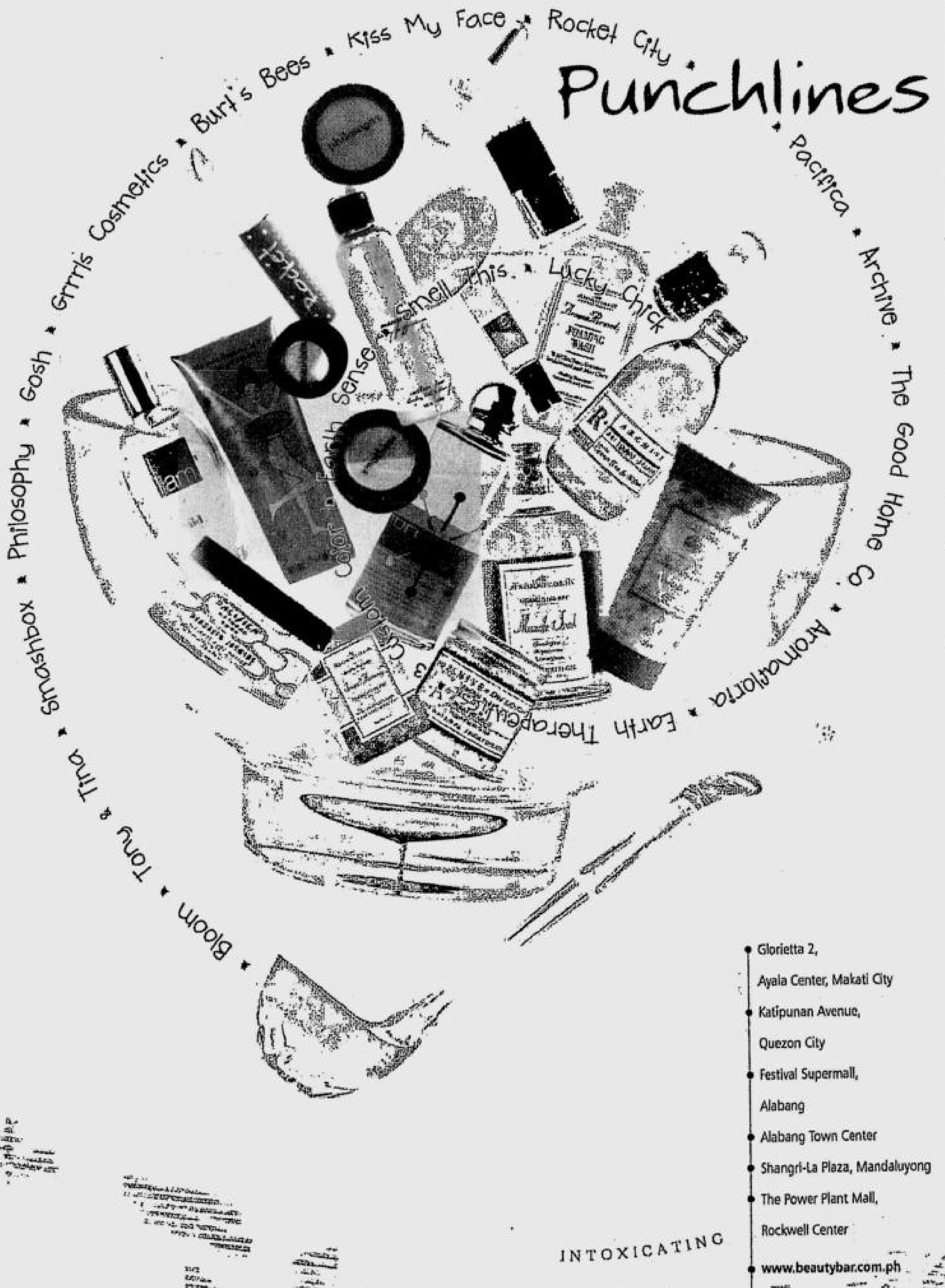
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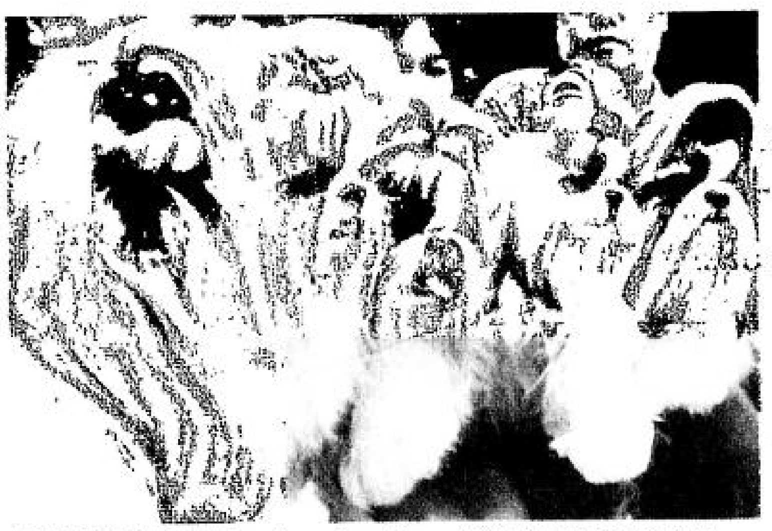
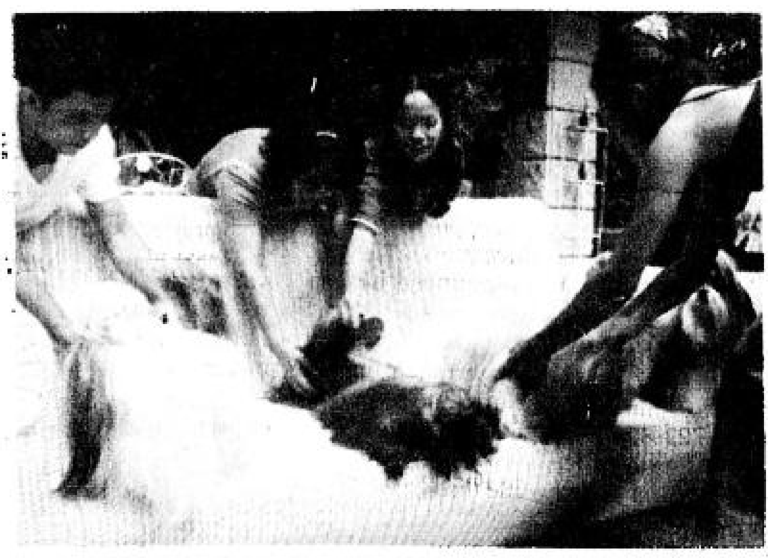


CHAMPION Shih Tzu show dogs (from left) Grand Champion Hong Kong, Champion Gorge, Champion Frank, Winona and Champion Angel



PAMPERED Shih Tzus: Champion Gorge, Champion Frank, Mutmut, Grand Champion Hong Kong and Champion Angel

PSTC officers and directors for 2002: (standing, from left) chair Penny Cham Friedlander, Lance Cutidioc, Wendell Sabile; (seated) Jane Chua-Sing, Thes Sonora-Santos, Mae Parraeno and Dr. Froilan Santos

The art—and fun—of the Shih Tzu

By Tita Giron
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

SHIH Tzus will always be scene-stealers in any dog show with their impeccably groomed long hair. But there's more to this unique breed of toy dogs with a long history that goes back to the era of Manchu emperors and the golden gates of China.

As the proud owners boast, Shih Tzus are undeniably the cuddliest, most loving, all-trusting and friendliest pets ever. These lap dogs are loyal not only to their master but also to other members of the family.

"Unlike most dogs, Shih Tzus will allow you to touch their newly born puppies. They are willing to trust most anybody, and they show this inherent trait by wagging the tail," says Dr. Froilan Manalo Santos, president of the Philippine Shih Tzu Club.

He implies that the toy dogs, also called lap dogs in general, don't have mean streaks. "It's not a Shih Tzu if it bites."

He adds, "Please pronounce their name *shidzhu*." The obstetrician-gynecologist is the proud owner of 10 pedigreed Shih Tzus. The females are named Toni, Nalia, Ela, Gorge, Dely, A-Z and Achee while the males are Frank, Cholo and Albert.

If that sounds more than what one can handle at a time, how about the 17 or so Shih Tzu pets of the club's honorary chair, Penny Cham Friedlander? Like the pets of Santos and, for that matter, some of the members of the exclusive club, her dogs have their own kennel keepers. They give the Shih Tzus their baths, have their hair combed and brushed, their teeth cleaned and nails trimmed. The keepers exercise the dogs.

"My Shih Tzus need their twice-a-day run and playtime to keep fit and happy," Friedlander explains.

Of course, it requires more than exercise to keep the show dogs fit and happy. Besides personal care and grooming, the owners see to it that the dogs get their shots and proper diet.

Nutritional requirements

Shih Tzus are supposed to eat special dog meals that contain high-quality nutrients. An example of a recommended meal found in a serving of kibbles or nuggets may consist of lamb meat, brewer's rice, corn, eggs and vitamin supplements.

Puppies below six days are fed three times a day while older ones eat twice a day, and after one year, it's a once-a-day regimen.

While they may eat from ordinary dog dish, they have to drink from special water bottles designed for dogs with long hair. This prevents the dog's moustache from getting wet that will cause hair breakage.

The hair (or coat) of the Shih Tzu is its crowning glory and has to be maintained and groomed with utmost care.

Grooming

There are special pet grooming salons in town for such treats as manicure, hair trim and shampoo. Two of the recommended shops for the long-haired lap dogs are Pampered Pooch Grooming Salon of Tess Villareal and Crickets owned by Cricket Viray.

Santos points out that Shih Tzus are not for laid-back people or folks who won't be bothered by disciplined grooming. The pets have to take a bath every five to seven days to maintain good coat care and to prevent matting and tangling of hair.

It's a tedious chore for owners to disentangle the matted hair of their pet. "They have to use their fingers to gently separate each hair before combing and brushing," Santos explains. To keep their long hair free of tangles (called matting), the dogs are groomed with special steel comb, tin brush, air-blow dryer and gentle shampoo.

"We don't use soap, just mild shampoo with conditioner that leaves the hair silky clean, not squeaky clean," Santos says. Squeaky hair is for dogs as split ends is for humans.

A couple decided to make their own brand of pet shampoo to avoid strong commercial shampoos and to keep a steady and inexpensive supply on hand. A chemist was hired to make the special formulation.

The shampoo is said to be very mild, has the ideal pH for dogs, rinses dirt without stripping the hair, and is available all the time. We learned later that the shampoo is called Yaki and costs P600 a gallon. Information on the product is available at the club.

Philippine Shih Tzu Club

The very first pedigreed Shih Tzus were introduced in the country during the mid-1970s. "I was the first one to register with the Philippine Canine Club Inc. the first litter of Shih Tzus born in the country," recalls Friedlander. She's been known for her top-breed dogs and to date has bred and raised 85 champions.

It did not take long for Shih Tzu owners in the country to band together and eventually organize the Philippine Shih Tzu Club. From the very rare toy dogs of the 1970s, the Shih Tzus have recently climbed to popularity and now are the fourth-ranking top dogs registered with the PCCI.

Today, the club keeps a high profile. It holds dog shows and various seminars including subjects on grooming and breeding. It also offers free assistance to anybody interested in acquiring puppies. "Feel the Shih Tzu experience" is the club slogan.

Officers of the club are: Santos, president; R.D. Chua-Sing, vice president; Vivianne Tin, secretary; Teresita Santos, treasurer, and Wendell Sabile, information officer. Board directors are Benedict Malapaz, Lance Zuditoz, May Paraino, Sally Mariano and Mary Jane Chua-Sing.

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Annual orchid show features cattleyas

CATTLEYAS, considered the princess of orchids, will be on center stage during the 56th annual orchid and garden show of the Philippine Orchid Society Feb. 21-March 3 at the Quezon Memorial Circle, Commonwealth Avenue wing, QC.

The show will feature lectures by Dr. Danilo Ong, president of the Avian Society, on "Pet Bird Care," Feb. 22; Rolita Spowart, "How to Start an Orchid Business," Feb. 23; Rex Puentespina, "Orchid Flower Arrangement Competition," Feb. 24; Vic Chin Jr., "Basics in Growing Sympodial Orchid," Feb 25; Norberto Bautista, "Noteworthy Philippine Orchid Species," Feb. 26; Glenn Renorca, "Orchid Flower Arrangement for Wedding and Valentines," Feb. 27; Andres Golamco Jr., "Conventional Orchid Propagation," Feb. 28; C.V. Lazaro, "Growing Monopodial Orchids," March 1; Mike Rodante Hernandez, "Care and Selection of Koi," March 2; and Willy Ortaliz, "Orchid Corsage Making," March 3. All lectures will be held at 2 p.m.

Call JM Lacandula at (0919) 358-7116 or Jenny Rivera at (0918) 569-4763.

Workshop on the power of thoughts

BRAHMA Kumaris presents "The Power of Thoughts" tomorrow, 9-11 a.m., at 7484 Bagtikan corner Dao Sts., San Antonio Village, Makati City. Rediscover the power of silence. Learn to listen to the natural rhythm of the soul. Reemerge from this wonderful experience with peace, love and joy in your heart. Call 890-7960 or e-mail bkmanila@i-next.net.

GOINGS-ON

SCRIPTWRITING WORKSHOP. Ricky Lee, the award-winning scriptwriter of "Bagong Buwan," "Rizal," "Anak," "Himala" and author of the best-selling scriptwriting manual "Trip to Quiapo," will conduct his 14th "Basic Scriptwriting Workshop for Film and TV." The sessions will be held for three consecutive Sundays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., starting Feb. 17.

Like all his previous workshops since 1982, this will be free of charge and will be open to everybody regardless of age, educational attainment and writing experience.

The workshop will be limited to only 40 participants. Registration on Feb. 10, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Pepe/Press office, 3 Road 1, Pagasa, QC. Call 928-9557 or 426-4961.

ANNIVERSARY. The University of the Philippines Preparatory High School Class of '62 will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a weeklong program of activities Feb. 10-17. The ruby celebration will start with a welcome get-together at Alabang Country Club, hosted by Ed Elegado at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 10. Various activities such as golf, tennis, ballroom dancing and shopping are scheduled on Feb. 11. An outing to Antipolo's butterfly farm is scheduled on Feb. 12, with lunch at Flor Gozon-Tarriela's farm.

Trips to Vigan, Boracay, Banaue and Palawan have been arranged for *balikbayan* members of class '62 on Feb. 12-15. Call 523-8411 or 523-7370. A Balik-Padre Faura Tour is set on Feb. 16 at the Szechuan Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. Dinner will follow at the Tarriela residence in Valle Verde. Call Willy Paras at 249-8850, Tessie Sempio-Palomo at 564-0744 or Edna Ledesma at 894-3827 or 820-9721.

CONFERENCE. The 3rd National Education Conference will be held on Feb. 11-12 at the Philippine International Convention Center. Dubbed "3nec@picc," the conference's theme is "Festival of Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies." Speakers will be led by Dr. Rita Dunn and Dr. Karen Burke of the International Learning Styles Network, St. John's University, New York.

SEMINAR. The Japan Foundation Manila Office will sponsor a "Japanese Language Teachers Seminar/Workshop," Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Mandell Hall, 2/F Trinity College, Cathedral Heights, QC. Call the Japan Foundation Manila Office, 12/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 811-6155 to 58 and 811-6153.

PLAY. Center for Arts Foundation will hold auditions on Feb. 9, 7 p.m., at Center for Arts, New Manila, QC, for the production of a gospel dance-musical play "A Man Called Jesus." The audition is open to everyone ages 16-35 years old. Roles offer both comic and dramatic moments. Actors should be able to sing and dance a specified number from the play. Demo tapes and lyrics are available at the Center for Arts Office. Call Ammie Sanchez or Blanche Dellera at 727-8347, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. (daily).

WORKSHOP. The ABC-RST InfoSpecialists Co. invites interested paraprofessional staff, library clerks, library assistants and technicians, professional librarians, administrators and supervisors to a three-day training workshop on "Basic Library Skills for Paraprofessional Staff" on Feb.18-20 at the Sulo Hotel, QC. The topics include: an overview of the librarianship profession, basics of readers' services, collection development and cataloging with workshop sessions. Call 929-2180 or 434-9535.

CONCERT. The Miriam College Liturgical Choir presents a Valentine concert dubbed "Reverie" on Feb.12, 7 p.m., at the College Library Foyer, featuring a repertoire of favorite English and Filipino love songs. Call 927-2421 local 263.

HOMECOMING. St. Mary's Academy of Caloocan City (formerly Our Lady of Grace Academy) Batch '77 silver jubilarians will host the annual homecoming on Feb. 24. The whole-day alumni fair will feature a food and dry goods bazaar, medical mission, film showing, exhibits and cooking demo. Alumni association president Steffi Panganiban-Manhit ('77) calls on alumnae to join the committees and actively participate in the homecoming event. Call Jean Mostrales, alumni coordinator, at 363-2524/3525.

REUNION. Graduates of the La Union High School in San Fernando City, Class 1952, will hold its golden reunion on April 27 at the high school grounds. Its organizing committee is chaired by Gen. Juanito K. Data, senior class governor and valedictorian, cochaired by Benjamin Baladad (who's now based in the US) and Eliseo Flora (Philippines). Dr. Socorro N. Camacho heads the secretariat.

GRAND HOMECOMING. Batch '77 and Batch '52 of The Roosevelt College, San Roque and Cainta will host a grand alumni homecoming and reunion on March 23, 6 p.m. This year's theme, "Rooseveltian sa Pagdating ng Panahon," promises to be a memorable night of music and fun at the Roosevelt College Campus, Sumulong, Cainta.

Good Roots spreads to wider area

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

LAST January, the agro-forestry project aptly called Good Roots marked 10 years of operations and the conclusion of two programs in the Philippines (duration of each project is five years). The project manager also announced his team was ready to move to a new project site.

The first Good Roots project was undertaken in Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte, the second in Lobo, Batangas. For the third and latest project, a site in Pugo, La Union has been selected. The three sites are now referred to as Good Roots I (Pagudpud), II (Lobo) and III (Pugo).

Like the first two projects, Pugo will be directed and managed by Ben J. Wallace, an anthropologist long connected with the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. It will have the same funding support of Caltex (Phils.) Inc., and the cooperation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This combination of business (Caltex), academe (Southern Methodist University), government (DENR) and the community (the participating farmers) is regarded as the ideal setup to ensure the success of similar endeavors.

Practical methods

When we learned about Good Roots a few years ago, the Lobo project was well underway. The methods applied in Pagudpud, considered practical for the place, had to be tested in a different environment. This was Lobo—a vast, hilly area long given to coconut plantations. Its environment was deemed best suited for slow-growing but valuable hardwood species like *mahogany* and *narra*, as well as fruit trees. Pagudpud, on the other hand, was selected for both its secondary and primary forests, its mixed economy (lowland and upland farming) and the people's difficulty in eking out a living.

Pugo was selected for being neither too far north like Pagudpud or too far south like Lobo, but rather a midway point in Luzon. In Pugo, says Wallace, they intend to do a lot of roadside planting to line streets with perhaps single or double rows of trees.

People's attitude

There are, of course, other criteria for site selection: the extent of deforestation, the possibilities for research on multipurpose tree species and the attitude of the people themselves. In the case of Pagudpud, its isolation and the farmers' low incomes were considered.

The Good Roots projects start with nurseries of tree seedlings and saplings. The first nurseries are set up in a chosen farm to show other farmers which tree species are most suitable to a given area. At the same time, the project team cultivates a small nursery in the yard of its office, which is usually near the town center, and the seedlings are made available to other deserving farmers. Seedling distribution is one of the attractions of the project and, to Wallace, it is important that farmers are kept interested and well motivated. This policy of attraction is implemented in various ways—through field trips to other farms, by organizing associations and cooperatives, each with its set of officers. Awards and recognitions are given on special occasions that take on a celebratory mood.

It is important that farmers are kept interested and well motivated

Wallace stresses that farmers/participants are never paid for their efforts. From the start, the farmers understand that whatever they do—plant trees and, in rotation, vegetables and crops—is for their own benefit. Their harvests are all products of their own labor. They may learn new methods and technologies but, in the long run, the gains from their new knowledge will serve them for all time.

That is why Good Roots makes it a point to introduce its system for only five years per site. The research team (incidentally, it consists of the same people that started out in Pagudpud) knows that by the end of that time, the farmers will be ready to take over on their own.

The Good Roots idea is like little drops of rain that help trees to grow and farmers to help themselves for a better future. We're still idealistic enough to believe that from such little drops, great forests grow and more productive farms rise.

Good Roots and Caltex Phils. celebrate their project's 10 years and the success of its first two phases by putting out a book, "Good Roots II—Inheriting the Earth," written by the one who started it all, Ben J. Wallace.

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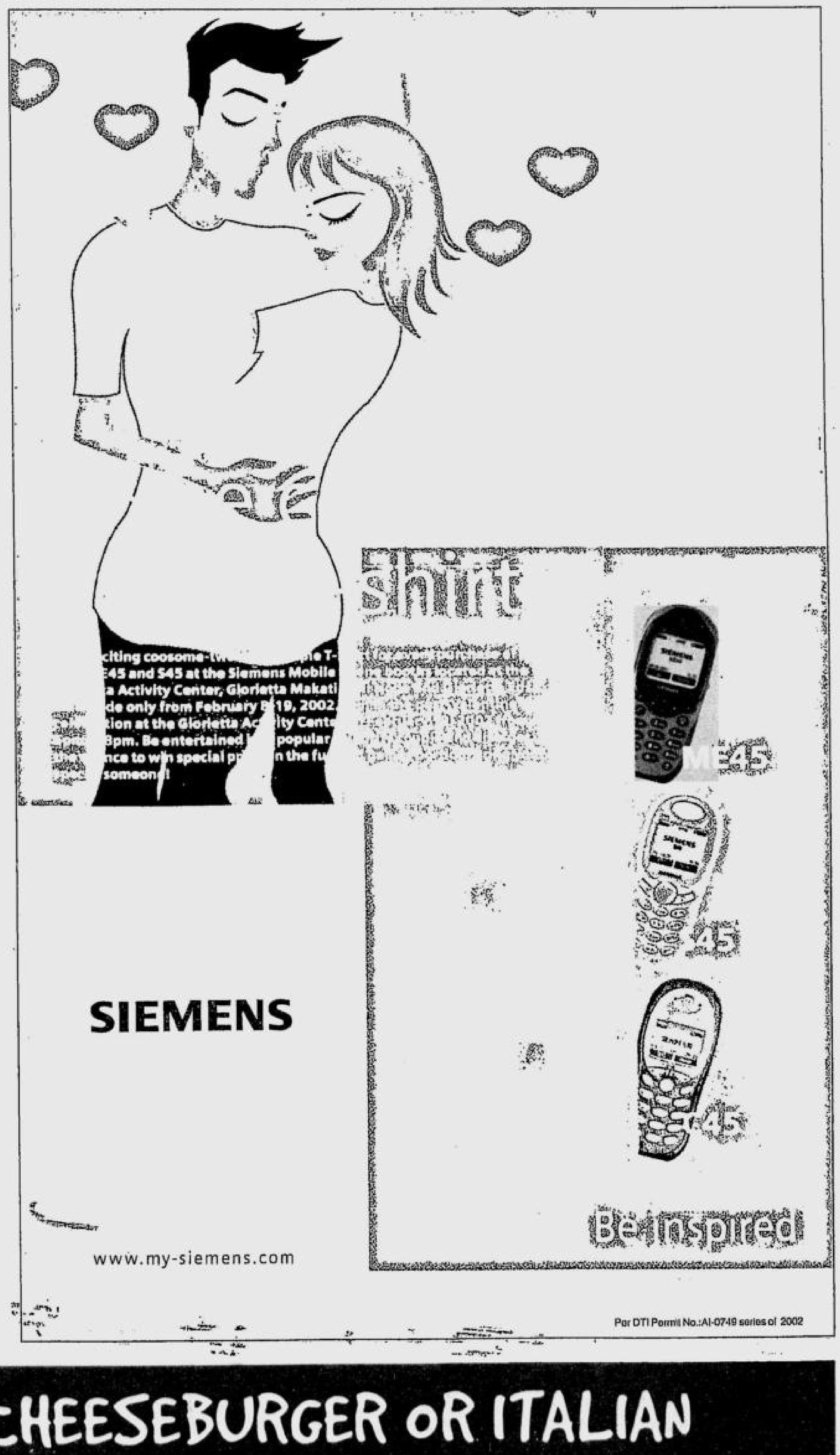
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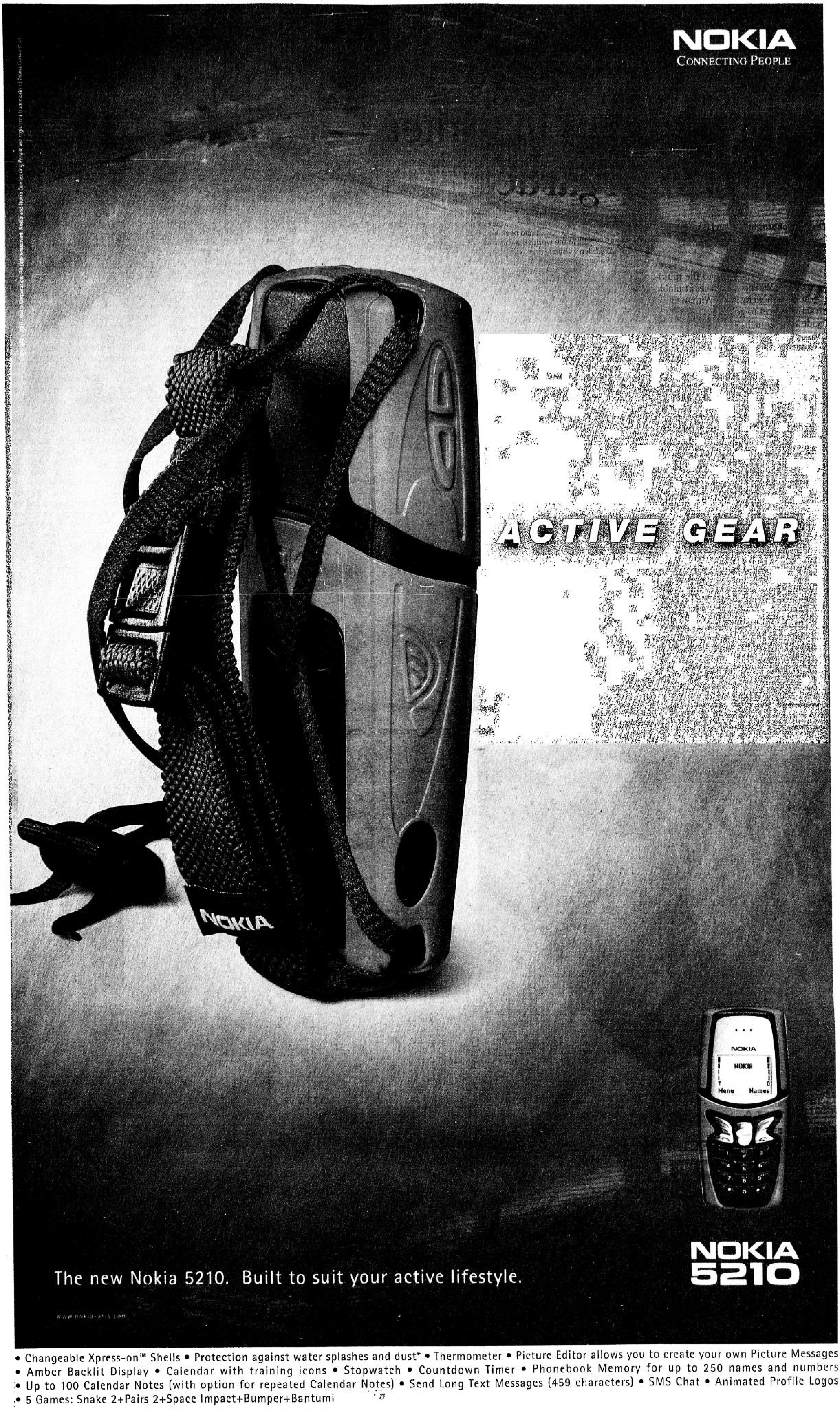
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LIFESTYLE

Home

Keeping warm in winter in New York garden

Text and photos by Adrian Lizares
Contributor

WHEN one visits New York City, preparing an itinerary to the multitude of events and places available is an achievement by itself. With so many attractive places to go to, it is difficult to decide which one to visit.

Museums are a must, as well as galleries that put one so quickly into a New York state of mind. And with more than a few good restaurants, a simple walk in the city's streets is activity enough.

New York has and forever will have so much to offer. One will need a good amount of resolve to stick to one's itinerary for there are other events and places that will distract one along the way.

Or one can toss everything aside and take things as they come. Often, the relaxed tourist will be better off than the anxious traveler.

So, once again in wintertime, I found myself in New York City. The autumn trip had to be postponed on account of that fateful Sept. 11 incident. Despite a little trepidation, I found myself sort of moving along with the rest of America and its "life-must-go-on" attitude.

Leafless in New York

Winter is really not the time for gardening, or to visit gardens. Fortunately most botanical gardens in New York have glass houses that offer visitors some warmth.

Although I was lucky to be in NYC during a very mild winter, I still prefer a warmer climate. Winter is not associated with abundance. Most of the trees were bare, making winter look stark. Gloriously colored leaves from autumn have fallen, and, if it had snowed previously, only fields of endless white would be seen.

I went to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BBG) by subway hoping for a thrilling botanical experience.

It was a cold morning and the lake of the BBG's Japanese garden was frozen. I had been lucky to visit many gardens in the world. But this was the first public garden I visited where I found myself completely alone. Great! A glance at the brochure

KEEPING/p.F2

MINIATURE *kalachuchi*

It was perfection to be alone in a park or garden

AGAVES inside the hot house

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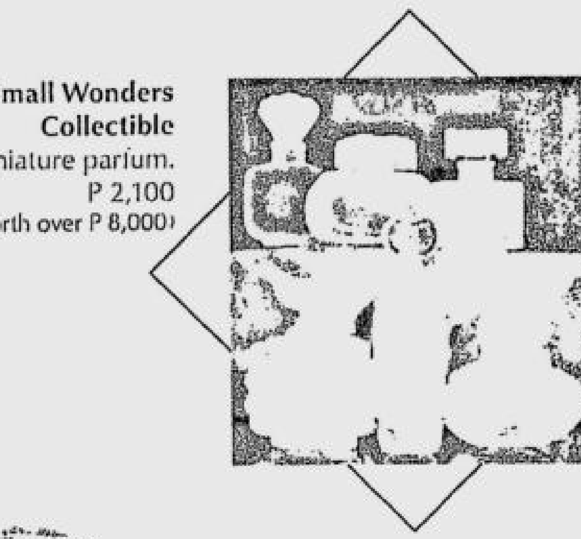
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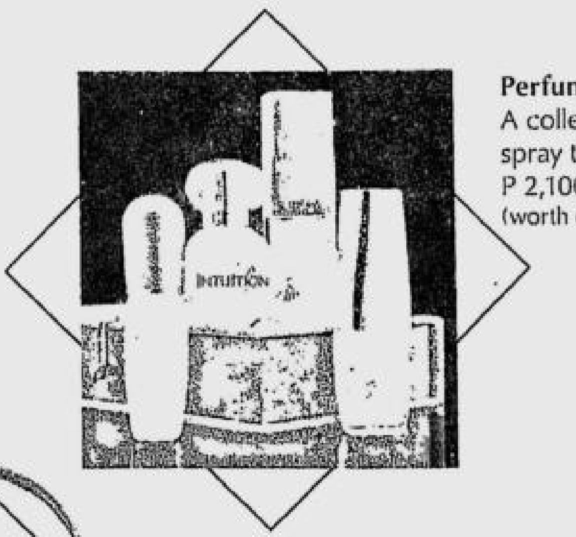
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Keeping warm in winter in New York garden

From page F1

that promised "delight in every season" had me looking for the quickest way to the hot houses.

The Brooklyn Botanical Garden consists of 52 acres of nature in the center of New York City. In 1910, New York State reserved 39 acres for a botanical garden. Later that year, the BBG was founded. Now it is a refreshing oasis in one of the world's most densely populated cities.

BBG offers many attractions like the Alice Recknagel Ireys "Fragrance Garden" (1955), Herb Garden, the Cherry Walk and the Rock Garden. Its Rose Garden (1927) is reputed to be the best in the United States.

Going Japanese

But I was advised by a friend from Brooklyn to head straight for the Conservatory and the Japanese Garden. The other attractions would be well worth your time in the proper season.

The Japanese Hill and Pond Garden was completed in 1915 by landscape architect Takeo Shiota. I walked through the thatched and knotted bamboo fence that surrounded the whole Japanese garden and entered through an arch *torii*. The ice-covered lake was the first thing you would see, and the delicately designed bridge that connected to a platform used extensively for many wedding photos, as weddings were among the services the BBG was known for. I knew I was going to miss the irises being a few months too early, but the hardy evergreens, conifers and grasses that thrived in the cold weather looked very pleasantly healthy. You could tell from the bald spots that there would be some surprises in the spring.

The leafless weeping willows were the most dramatic with their branches bending toward the pond below creating still but true reflections of themselves. It was perfection to be alone in a park or garden.

I wanted to see and feel everything at leisure.

Without 20 other pairs of legs between the plants and me, I had a chance to observe them closely. I also noticed more details in the architectural elements. The carps, which reduce their metabolic rate to

KEEPING/p.F3

NEW York at its coldest, the pond is frozen

WINTER topiary

JAPANESE gardens are interesting in the way the natural materials are used and juxtaposed

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LEADING out from the Japanese garden

THE WEEPING willows in winter

Keeping warm . . .

From page F2

adapt to winter, were a great sight for they hardly seemed to move, conserving every bit of energy to survive winter. In that silent morning, they added to the perfection of my surroundings.

Japanese gardens offer a lot of practical ideas from the way plants are arranged, how natural stones are positioned, to the placement of garden ornaments like the 500-year-old Shogun lantern, a precious gift (1977) from New York's sister city, Tokyo. The garden style has been immensely reinterpreted and been evolving for thousands of years, used in modern architecture as well as traditional homes.

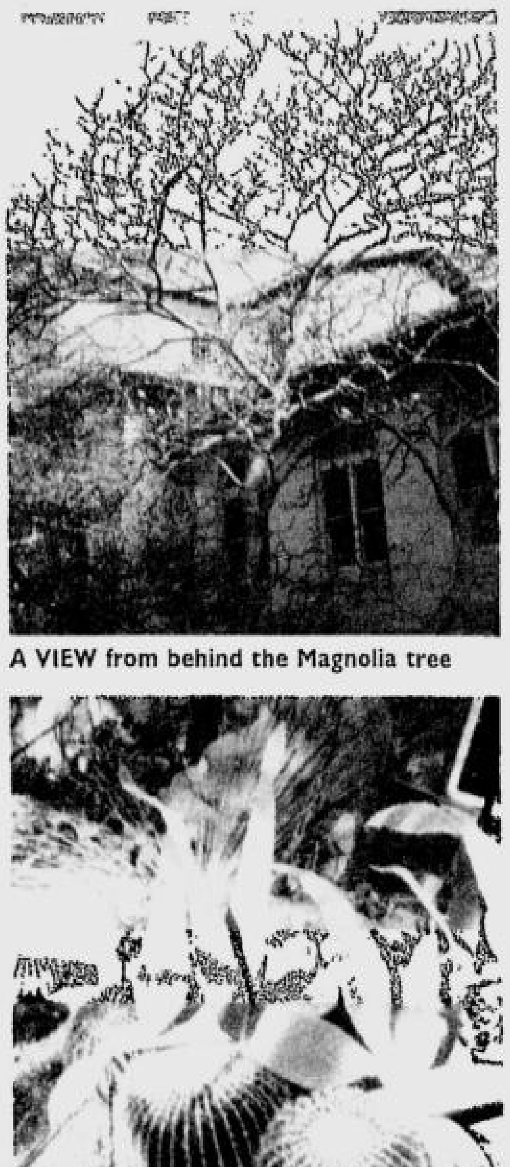
Familiar territory

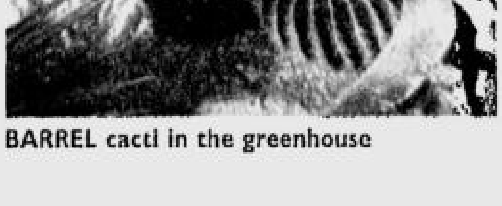
From the Japanese Garden (renovated in 2000), I moved to the hot houses, the Steinhard Conservatory that was completed in 1988 after a $25-million capital project. It was good to feel warm again and even better to be surrounded by so many familiar plants that thrive in our climes. I was once again in familiar territory. Being surrounded by heliconias, orchids, palms, our very own medenillas and other exotic plants collected over decades was exhilarating.

I decided to spend the most time here looking at each and every specimen until I found two of the most interesting plants I had ever seen. (We plant lovers get such a high when confronted with something rare or never been seen before.) The first was an orchid, *Lewisara Fahtima Alsagoff*, that did not resemble its genus at all. It looked more like a wild strawberry vine. A closer view revealed soft lilac butterfly-shaped petals. The leaves were of the same shape. The other was a dwarf but fully mature and flowering *plumeria alba* (*kalachuchi*), only 2 ft in height. I had never seen anything like it and I vaguely remember that it came from Central America.

The temperate bonsai plants in the cold room were very arresting, as all well-cared-for bonsai usually are. BBG's famous bonsai collection started with 32 potted trees donated in 1925. The other plants occupied me intensely for the next two hours until I left for my next NYC destination, the Dean and Deluca store in SoHo.

There is much to learn from the BBG that not only honors man's work but also humanity itself. The Garden is communal in spirit but global in its aims. It showcases the best plant species that inspire and delight the public and conducts research, disseminating the results of its studies to upgrade skills on basic plant care, among others. The BBG's volunteer group helps diverse urban neighborhoods enhance their surroundings and lives through plant cultivation and raises public awareness on the sensitivity of the natural environment and the need to conserve and protect it.


A VIEW from behind the Magnolia tree


BARREL cacti in the greenhouse

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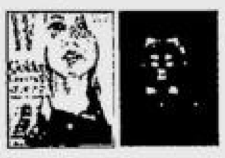

Center holds free concert by disabled

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Music has given the differently abled confidence and a positive outlook in life

DEAR Tita Dulce,

The Divine Mercy Mobile Center of Music & Arts Therapy for special children, adults and sailors, is a nonstock, nonprofit organization catering to the needs of persons with disabilities. It has reached out to individuals with autism, Down syndrome, mental retardation, speech impairment, hydrocephalus, (other mental and physical disabilities) and senior citizens. Its vision is to educate, develop, rehabilitate and give these people a venue for self-expression through music and arts therapy.

Music has the power to improve their situation. This was realized through the joy they expressed and the enthusiasm they showed during sessions. Confidence and positive outlook in life were also manifested. Thus, the organization has put up recitals since 1995to hone these people's hidden talents. With the help of sponsors, the recitals were able to showcase their talents.

The center wishes to continue this task in the belief that it is able to achieve its vision of sharing music with persons who are differently-abled and reaching out to the society as well.

This year, with Equitable-PCIBank, we are presenting "A Recital by the Enabled VII" on Feb. 23, 7 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable-PCIBank Tower I, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

We wish to invite you and your friends, as well as readers of your column, to this free concert, and to be our partners (so we can) share with you the accomplishments of these special people. We hope you will be with us in bringing joy to our brothers and sisters with disabilities and in helping them get integrated to society. Thank you for reading this, and hoping you will come.

CELESTE S. SANCHEZ
Director, Divine Mercy Mobile Center of
Music & Arts Therapy

Thank you for your invitation and, above all, for giving your time and concern to special children and adults. The free concert will surely be enjoyed not only by the audience, but also by the physically challenged who will be performing.

Interested readers may get in touch with this wonderful lady. The center's address is 118 Matahimik St., Teachers Village West, QC, tel. 433-5552. Let us hope that generous readers will donate to this nonstock and nonprofit organization.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Greenbelt has place for pot lovers

CREATIVE Pottery in Greenbelt provides a glimpse of the fascinating world of pottery through pieces in a variety of earth and bright colors, sensuous and imaginative shapes with functional and decorative possibilities.

Among the works on display are a spectacular bowl by Jon Pettyjohn and voluptuous deep dishes by Lanelle Abueva Fernando. Bowls and vases, some accented with petrified plant roots, and Ugu Bigyan's ceramic chimes that almost sing in the wind, are also in the shop.

Other potters whose works are carried by the store are Monique Ignacio, Pete Cortes, Tensie Bello, Boboy Roxas, Juliet Lao, Ging Pajaro, Bong Figaroa, Peppon Rondain, Dedette Bautista, Bing Agbayani, Abel Tsubotani, Didith Tan, Jing Mei Conrads, Ester Mercurio, all graduates of Jon and Tessy Pettyjohn and Adee Mendoza Pottery Workshop; self-taught Edward Giron and Henry Rio; and Mike Gay-Awen from Sagada.

The Pettyjohn-Mendoza Pottery Workshop is located at 3/F Garden Square on Greenbelt Drive.

Bonsai show marks Cebu group's 25th year

THE CEBU Bonsai Society will mark its 25th anniversary with a show March 1-3 at SM City-Cebu. This was announced by overall show chair Carmen A. Go.

Club president Rosario R. Alfaro said the exhibits would be opened by the Manila-based Philippine Bonsai Society officers: Fely S. Gupit, Dory Bernabe, Marian Hahn, PBS club president Willy Hahn, Zac Sarian, Rene Reyes, David Du, Teddy Lim and Oding Reyes.

Lecture-demonstrations on the different aspects of bonsai growing will be conducted by Dr. Librado Macaraya, Lito Alansalon, Fe Mendoza, Norma Sta. Cruz, Jane Tio and Norma Sanchez.

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